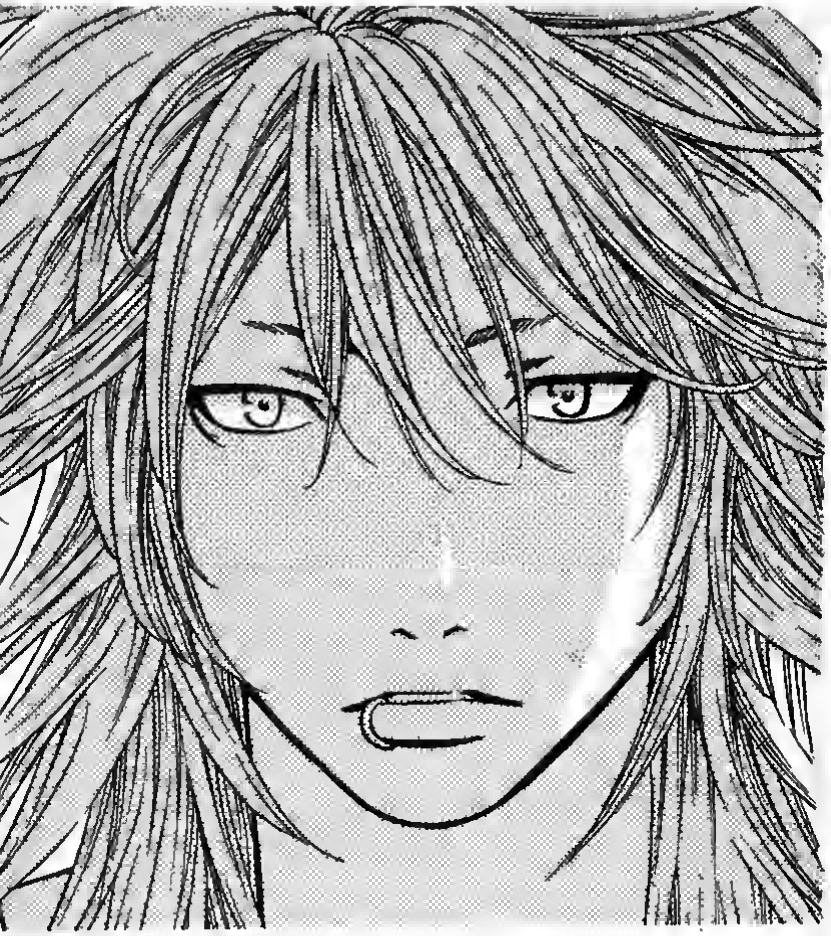
REMEMBER TO SUPPORT THE MANGAKA,
BUY YOUR COPY TODAY!!
DO NOT SHARE OUTSIDE OF IRC.

OYAYUBIHIME
TORU FUJIEDA
INFINITY
2



OYAYUBIHIME INFINITY

Volume 2

By Toru Fujieda

OYAYUBIHIME
INFINITY
Volume:2

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THE STORY SO FAR

KANOKO AND MAYU ARE THE DAUGHTERS OF A FAMOUS ACTRESS. TO HELP HER BIG SISTER BECOME A STAR, KANOKO CREATES AN ALTER EGO FOR HER NAMED "MAYA." THOUGH THEIR FATHERS ARE DIFFERENT, BOTH KANOKO AND MAYU SHARE THE SAME BIRTHMARK ON THEIR THUMBS. AND THEN, ONE DAY, THE MOST POPULAR GUY IN SCHOOL, TSUBAME, NOTICES KANOKO'S BIRTHMARK, AND WON'T STOP BOTHERING HER ABOUT BEING HIS "DESTINED LOVE."

YEAH... THAT'S THE TREND LATELY. SOME GUYS WEAR MAKEUP.
MAYBE HE'S THINKING OF BUYING HIS GIRLFRIEND A PRESENT?
MAYBE HE'S HOPING HIS GIRLFRIEND WILL BUY IT FOR HIM? THEN HE'LL USE IT HIMSELF.
YOU KIDDING? LOOK AT THAT HAIR. HE'S GONNA BUY IT FOR HIMSELF.
He must be in a visual kei band!*
BARGAIN
*Visual kei: a type of Japanese rock band where the members wear elaborate makeup and costumes.
ALL WE NEED TO DO IS LOOK AT A LOT OF THUMBS, RIGHT?
SO, UH, ANYWAY.
BIRTHMARKS. ON THUMBS.
CHEEEEEEEEE.
NAIL ART! 100 YEN* A FINGER! I'LL DRAW WHAT EVER YOU WANT !!
WELCOME TO THE BLUE SKY NAIL SALON, LADIES!!
*100 YEN=APP.$0.88 U.S.

Character Guide 3

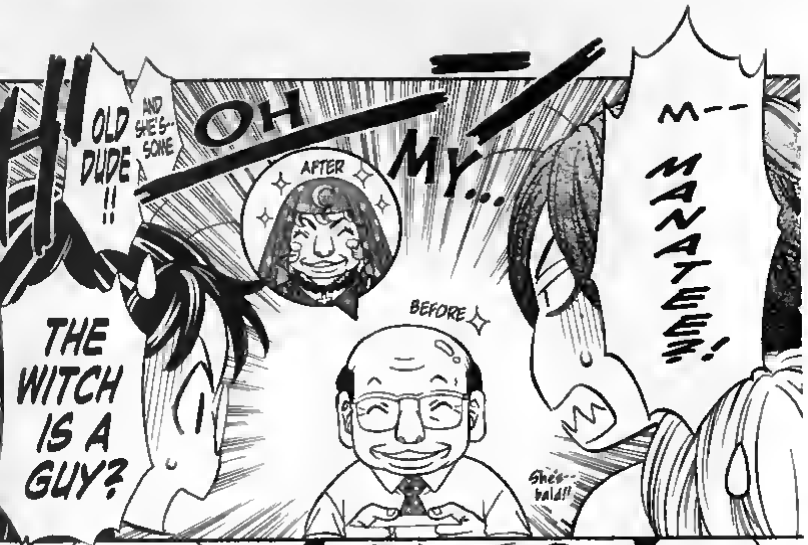
Kanoko Himemiya

Birthday: 9/30
Blood Type: O

The most absolutely boring and ordinary character ever drawn by Toru Fujieda. She is so plain and ordinary that the publisher said, "You expect readers to like her?" Oh, little do they know what's going to happen...very soon. Oh yes, very soon!!

WE'D DECIDED TO GET TOGETHER AND HELP TSUBAME SEARCH FOR HIS "DESTINED LOVE" FROM HIS "PAST LIFE."
THAT IS...
TO SAY...
THE SIGN IS A BIRTHMARK ON THE THUMB.
...THERE'S A BIG POSSIBILITY HIS "DESTINED LOVE" IS SOMEWHERE IN THIS CITY.
Flomp
HERE.
THE GIRL AT THE FESTIVAL MUST HAVE BEEN, UH...
SINCE TSUBAME SAYS HE'S ALREADY CHECKED ALL THE GIRLS AT OUR SCHOOL...
ISN'T IT, LIKE, YOUR PART-TIME JOB TO HAND OUT TISSUES?
I MEAN, YOU GET PAID TO DO THIS, RIGHT?
WAIT A SECOND.
KANOKO, HAND OUT THESE TISSUES TO GIRLS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE STATION.
ONLY TO GIRLS--AND CHECK THEIR THUMBS WE CALL THIS "OPERATION TISSUE."

OH YEAH? WELL, LET'S SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO!!
OKAY, I'LL TAKE THIS LITTLE CAT THING RIGHT HERE!
REALLY? JUST A HUNDRED YEN? That's really cheap!
TODAY'S OUR OPENING DAY, SO WE'RE HAVING A SALE!
OH, YOU LIKE IT?
SO KYUUU-UUTE!!
It's gorgeous!
KYAAA
OH, MY GOD, YOU DID IT SO FAST!!
ALL RIGHT, THERE YOU GO!!
MEOW!?
POP
SWOOSH
WOOSH
SWOOSH
...
BEGIN "OPERATION CHECK PEOPLE'S FINGERS AT NAIL SALON ON THE STREET."
WE'RE OFF TO A WONDERFUL START
KYAAA
KYAAA
They gather
OKAY, NOW PAINT THE REST!!
ME, TOO!
THAT'S TSUBAME FOR YOU... THEY FLOCK TO HIM.
Some cute guy is painting nails!!


OH MY...
M-- MANATEE!
OLD DUDE!!
AND SHE'S-- SOME
AFTER
BEFORE
THE WITCH IS A GUY?
She's-- bald!!

WHEN I DON'T HAVE TO WORK, I, WELL...I PUT ON WOMEN'S CLOTHING. AND, YES, TELL PEOPLE'S FORTUNES.
I CAN REALLY SEE INTO THE PAST LIFE, YOU KNOW.
Let's go ahead and keep this conversation off the record, all right kids?
YES, YES. BY DAY, I'M JUST YOUR AVERAGE SALARYMAN.

I SHOULD PROBABLY TELL YOU ABOUT THAT...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
OH, WE WERE THINKING WE COULD DO SOMETHING TO FIND TSUBAME'S DESTINED LOVE...

HE SAID I WAS AN ACORN IN MY PAST LIFE...
AND HE SAID I WAS A SNOW CRAB...
A... PRINCESS...?
YOU SEE, IN THE PREVIOUS LIFE, I WAS A BEAUTIFUL PRINCESS... HA HA HA
GRR GRR
GRR GRR SHUDDER
GRR GRR SHUDDER

HMMM...
...THESE ARE SOME GORGEOUS PRESS-ON NAILS YOU HAVE HERE, YOUNG MAN.
Now, now, you SAID you'd cooperate with us, remember?
You didn't say I'd have to do your part-time JOB for you!
It's not like it's that HARD! You're just handing out tissues!

BOM
I'M GOING HOME.
Two birds with one stone!
NOW, NOW, IT'S FOR A GOOD CAUSE. WE'RE PUTTING IT ALL INTO THE CLUB SAVINGS.
Working for FREE?!

DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE ME?
professional amateur psychic
Hanae Manatee
The Witch's Hut
GYAAAAA
OH.. DID HE FIND HER ALREADY?
??

WHY DON'T YOU BUY SOME AS A PRESENT FOR YOUR DAUGHTER?
OH...
WELL...
YOU'RE TSUBAME, AREN'T YOU? THANKS FOR THE OTHER DAY.
YES...?

YOU CAN SEE IT, CAN'T YOU?
NOW, NOW, TSUBAME ...
I'LL ..... FIND HER !!
I WILL !!
I WILL FIND HER !!
AND I HAVE A SIGN OF IT, RIGHT HERE !!
H-HOW ...
...CAN YOU CALL THAT A BAD THING ?

I'M GETTING A BAD VIBE.
UH ...
HEY! WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
JUST WHEN WE'RE ABOUT TO FIND OUT WHO SHE IS?
IT'S TELLING ME THAT YOU SHOULD DISTURB THE PREVIOUS LIFE NO FURTHER.
YOU SEE, EVERYONE HAS A "PAST LIFE."
YET MOST PEOPLE HAVE NO MEMORIES OF IT.
BECAUSE IT WOULD ONLY CONFUSE THEM.
IF YOUR "PAST LIFE" IS CALLING TO YOU, IF IT IS REACHING OUT TO YOU, IT CANNOT POSSIBLY BE DOING SO FOR A GOOD REASON.
I MADE A PROM-ISE !!
"IF WE ARE REBORN, WE WILL MEET AGAIN!"
WHICH IS WHY YOU MUST...
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT, OLD MAN?!

Second year student
YES.. GOING TO COLLEGE?
First year students
I'M TAKING MY EXAMS NEXT YEAR.
OH--OH YEAH. YOU'RE GRADUATING, HUH.
GO ON AND SIT DOWN.
HEY-- MIKE. WHAT WERE YOU DOING ALL DAY?
OH. IT'S SATURDAY. I WAS AT A SEMINAR.
WHAT THE HECK?! MIKE WHAT WERE YOU DOING AT A SEMINAR?
SO, UH, MIKE, WHAT COLLEGE ARE YOU GOING TO?
HOKKAIDO
YOU MEAN... HOKKAIDO UNIVERSITY?!
YEAH.
I SHALL ENROLL IN THEIR PRESTIGIOUS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE.
AND I WILL BECOME AN ANIMAL DOCTOR.

OH, COME ON.
DON'T ACT LIKE THAT, TSUBAME.
HOW WOMANLY!!
YOU DIDN'T EXPECT TO FIND HER ON THE FIRST DAY, DID YOU??
STARTING TOMORROW, WE'RE CONTINUING WITH RENEWED VIGOR.
I don't think that'd help, boss.
BANU
BAZU
Well, you guys did ask his advice first
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BELIEVE WHAT THAT OLD MANATEE SAYS.
THAT'S RIGHT!
POP
...HEY!
MIKE-CHAN!
WHY DON'T YOU TRY... LOOKING UP THE NAMES?
YOU SAID YOU AND YOUR DESTINED LOVER'S NAMES WERE "SUKEROKU" AND "AGEMAKI," RIGHT?
I'LL DO A LITTLE RESEARCH ON OLD EDO ERA RECORDS!!

YOU MEAN LIKE A WEREWOLF BRAIN SURGEON?!
AN ANIMAL DOCTOR ?!?!
AND I ALWAYS TOOK YOU FOR SOME WEIRD MUTE FREAK!!
WHAT A SURPRISE! I CAN'T BELIEVE MIKE HAD SUCH A HIDDEN AMBITION!
SHOOON
IT'LL BE NO PROBLEM.
NOT REALLY.
THOUGH, UH, ISN'T HOKKAIDO UNIVERSITY KIND OF...
...HARD TO GET INTO?
DRINKIE R
What'll you have?
Order me the strawberry sundae
AND YOU GUYS THOUGHT HE WAS QUIET JUST BECAUSE HE'S A SMIDGE WEIRD, HUH?
MENU
A "SMIDGE?"
Well, well...
YEAH, GUYS, MIKE-CHAN IS AWESOME AT SCHOOL.
HE'S SERIOUS ABOUT EVERY-THING.

ISN'T THAT REALLY MATURE OF HIM?
IT'S ONLY BECAUSE HE BELIEVES NOT APPLYING HIS FULL STRENGTH IS TO DISGRACE HIMSELF BEFORE AN OPPONENT.
UH... MAYBE. KINDA SCARY, THOUGH
Gray eyes
Skinny eyebrows
Grayish hair
Ghostly face
Pierced lip
IT'S JUST SO HE DOESN'T GET PICKED ON!
Necklace he got for birthday from Tsubame
Not good at doing buttons
YOU THINK HE DRESSES LIKE THIS BECAUSE HE LIKES IT?
"THE ELEMENTS OF MIKE"
ANYWAY, IF MIKE-CHAN GOES TO HOKKAIDO NEXT YEAR...
MAAAN, I'M GONNA BE LONELY.
SOME-THING I FOUND.
Shut UP!
Oh, come on...
...WHAT?
Why don't you apply to Hokkaido, too, then?
You kidding? I'm too dumb.
SWOOSH

I HEARD HER REAL NAME IS "MAYU HIMEMIYA."
"HIME-MIYA ?"
THAT'S KANOKO'S LAST NAME!
ARE YOU TWO RELATED, KANOKO?!
.....UH !
NO!
...NO.
...WHY?

"LOVELY LIP GLOSS THE COLOR OF MYSTERY"
OH, MAYA YUUKI.
POP
THESE ARE...
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT--YOU KNOW WHAT I HEARD ?
THAT MAYA YUUKI GIRL WENT TO OUR SCHOOL.
OH, I THINK I'VE HEARD OF HER--
SHE'S GOING TO BE IN SOME NEW DRAMA SERIES, RIGHT?
...MAYU'S SUNGLASSES...

AND THEN SAW HIM AT THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL ...
IT WAS TOTALLY SCARY.
HAVE YOU EVER SPOKEN TO HIM ?
AND I GUESS I ALWAYS SAW HIM FIGHTING ...
HE, UH...
HE WAS ALWAYS FIGHTING AT SCHOOL ...
DID HE EVER SEE IT?!
.... AND ...
THE BIRTH-MARK ?
HOW MUCH DOES HE KNOW... ?
MIGHT HE HAVE SEEN THE BIRTHMARK BEFORE ?
HOW CAN I FOOL HIM?

NO WAY..
WHY WAS HE CARRYING MAYU'S SUNGLASSES ?
DOES HE... HAS HE ALWAYS KNOWN?
EVERYTHING ABOUT MAYA?
MIGHT HE KNOW ...
EXPLA-NATION, PLEASE !
DO YOU KNOW THAT MIYAKE GUY?
N-NO !!
UH ...
YOU SAY ...
MIYAKE GAVE THESE TO YOU ?
HERE.

YOUR BIG SISTER USED TO COME HERE ALL THE TIME, TOO.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN MY "BIG SISTER" --
WITH HER EYES ON THE SKY.
JUST LIKE YOU.
SHE WOULD SEND TEXT MESSAGES ON HER PHONE.
...
DON'T WORRY.
I WON'T TELL ANYONE...
...ABOUT YOUR SISTER AND...

HEY.
THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT.
THOSE SUN-GLASSES.
WHAT ABOUT THEM?
THEY'RE YOUR BIG SISTER'S ...
RIGHT?

TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH...
...I DON'T WANT TSUBAME TO FIND HIS "DESTINED LOVE."
EVEN IF THEY WERE TO MEET...
YOU SEE...
...HE COULD NEVER BE HAPPY.

...I WON'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT HER BIRTHMARK, EITHER.

WH--
ARE YOU THREAT-ENING ME?
...NO
MIYAKE, I...
...THOUGHT YOU WERE HELPING TSUBAME SEARCH FOR HIS "DESTINED LOVE?"
HOW?!
OH MY GOD.
HE KNOWS.
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S GOING ON...

TSUBAME HAS NOT YET NOTICED YOUR SISTER'S BIRTHMARK.
WHEN TSUBAME FIRST FOUND YOU...
...THOUGH HE SUSPECTED YOU OF BEING "AGEMAKI"...
...YOU DIDN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING.
YOU SEEMED... ANNOYED. SO I IGNORED YOU.
H-HEY...
YET NOW, THERE'S NEWS OF ANOTHER PERSON WITH A BIRTH-MARK.
THE WRITING CLUB IS HELPING OUT.
...WHAT ARE YOU...

RATHER...
...HE WOULD ACTUALLY BECOME QUITE UNHAPPY.
...
...WHAT THE HECK DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
SO MAYBE THAT PERSON IS TSUBAME'S REAL DESTINED LOVE?
HMMM.
SHE SAYS SHE DIDN'T EVEN GO INTO THE GYM-NASIUM.
SO THAT MEANS THERE'S AT LEAST ONE OTHER PERSON WITH THIS SAME BIRTH-MARK.
SO. ARE YOU SAYING THAT THE GIRL TSUBAME SAW AT THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL--
--WASN'T YOUR SISTER?
NO.

I DO.

MIYAKE, ARE YOU SAYING YOU--
--YOU REALLY BELIEVE IN THIS "PAST LIFE" STUFF?
WOOM

SOMETHING EVEN TSUBAME DOESN'T KNOW.
YOU KNOW, THIS IS REALLY ANNOYING ME.
SUDDENLY, EVERYONE IS TALKING ABOUT THIS "PAST LIFE" BUSINESS.
I DON'T WANT TO BE CAUGHT UP IN ALL OF THIS.
I'D RATHER NOT EVEN KNOW ABOUT IT.
THOUGH NOW, I THINK...
WAS IT...
...I'VE GOT A RIGHT TO KNOW EXACTLY WHAT IT WAS I SAW WHEN WE TOUCHED THUMBS.
...MY "PAST LIFE?"

NO WAY.
STAY CALM.
SOMETHING ABOUT THAT PAST LIFE.
YOU'RE HIDING SOMETHING FROM ME.
YOU...
.....I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN.

I HAVE TO DO THIS FOR MY OWN SURVIVAL.
OKAY.
I'M THE ONE WHO GOT CAUGHT UP IN THIS.
HERE GOES NOTHING..
HEY.
YOU GOT IT.
MAYA--YOU KEEP ON LOOKING THIS FABULOUS ALL AFTERNOON AND WE'LL HAVE NO PROBLEMS!
IT SEEMS THAT THIS "MAYA" THING IS REALLY WORKING OUT.
SCENE 46--CUT!
THANK YOU, EVERYBODY!
LET'S TAKE A ONE-HOUR BREAK NOW, ALL RIGHT?
CLACK!

HEY, MIYAKE.
HERE'S THE DEAL.
THOUGH I GUESS THAT DOESN'T MATTER IF TSUBAME FINDS HER HIMSELF.
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...
I WON'T TELL TSUBAME ABOUT MAYU.
AND IF I FIND SOMEONE ELSE WITH A BIRTHMARK, I WON'T TELL HIM.
SO...
MIYAKE, PLEASE. KEEP MAYU A SECRET FOR NOW, ALL RIGHT?
I'M REALLY ASKING A LOT OF HIM ALL OF A SUDDEN.
I KNOW I'M ASKING A LOT OF YOU.
JUST, PLEASE...
HE PROBABLY THINKS I'M A PSYCHO.
...PLEASE HELP ME INVESTIGATE INTO MY OWN "PAST LIFE," PLEASE?

MAN, BEING MAYA REALLY MAKES ME TIRED, THOUGH.
WHEW
OKAY.
I'm gonna go have a cigarette!!
I wonder if Kaneko sent me a text...
MAYA, GO AHEAD AND EAT YOUR LUNCH!
KNOCK KNOCK
GWHOA
Y-YES!!
MAYA-CHAN, YOU IN HERE?
KANEKO-KUN, YOU MUST BE REALLY BUSY, TOO, NO?
"SPLASH" IS PUTTING ON CONCERTS AND ALL.
AW, I'M SO USED TO IT BY NOW--
MAYBE A LITTLE. ...SLEEPY.
YOU TIRED?
Maya Mode! Go!!
YOU'VE BEEN WORKING HARD SINCE EARLY THIS MORNING!!

THOUGH I GUESS YOU'RE USED TO IT, TOO, HUH, MAYA?
IT MUST BE TOUGH BEING COMPARED TO YOUR FAMOUS MOM ALL THE TIME.
YOU SHOULD RELAX A LITTLE MORE.
FLOSH
OH MY GOD!!
I'M SO SORRY!!
Oh! I like your stage outfit!
MAN, KANEKO-KUN IS A REALLY NICE GUY!!
It's green tea! I brought it from home!
HEY, ARE YOU THIRSTY?
YAA--
OH! SURE!

UH--UH!
OH, MAN, KANOKO IS GOING TO GET SO MAD AT ME...
THIS BIRTH-MARK, UH...
CAN YOU KEEP IT A SECRET ?
THAT THIS LITTLE BIRTH-MARK...
PRETTY PLEASE ?
SURE.
RIGHT THERE.
IF YOU'D TOLD ME, I NEVER WOULD HAVE BE-LIEVED--
I WON'T TELL.
...I WON'T SAY NOTHING TO NOBODY.
...WOULD CHANGE MY VERY DESTINY.
CHAPTER 6 END

I MEAN, YOU'RE ALWAYS SO... PERFECT.
....
I'M SO SORRY.
IT'S ALL RIGHT. IT'LL DRY IN NO TIME.
It's hot out today and all.
THOUGH, MAN. I DIDN'T KNOW EVEN YOU HAD TIMES LIKE THIS, MAYA.
WHA--?
----HEY. YOUR FINGER ...
OH, MAN!
..... OH !!
THE BANDAGE CAME OFF MY THUMB...
THAT'S AN INTERESTING BIRTHMARK...

Chapter 1: Mike's Lip Ring

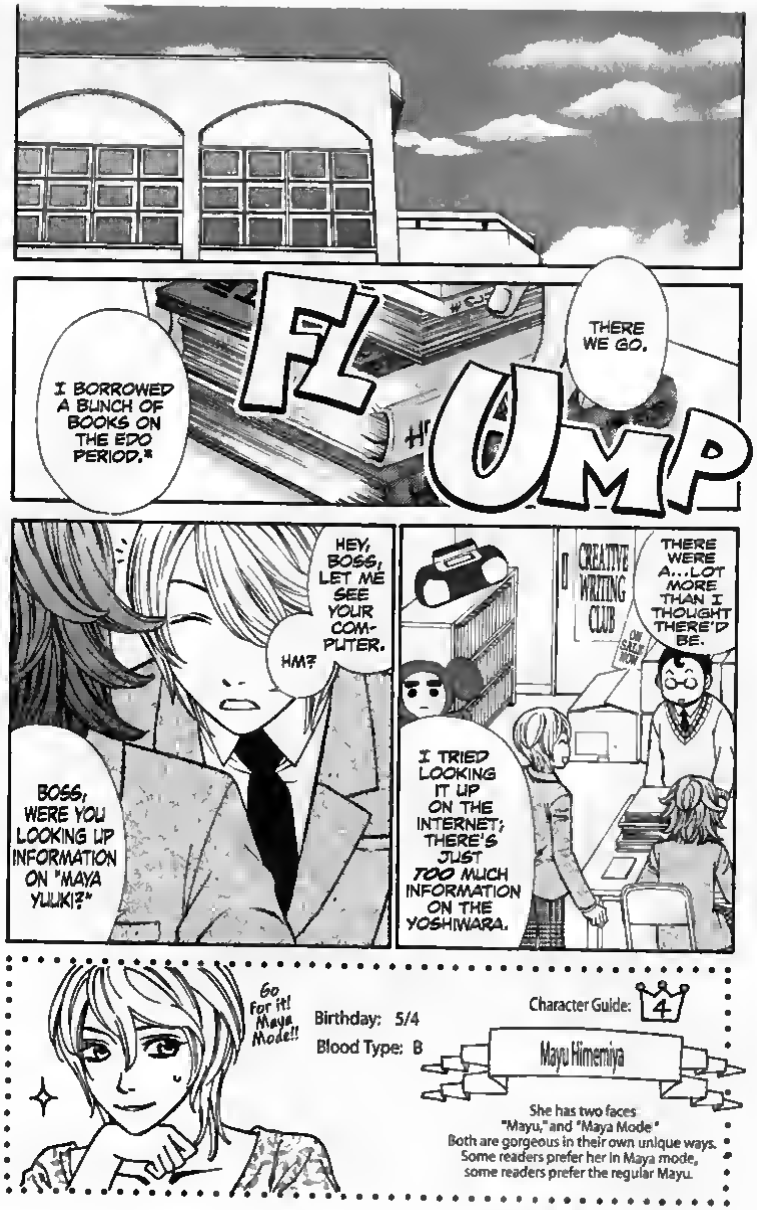
BIZARRE!! "THE PUZZLE OF THE THUMB"

BONUS MANGA

HIGGSO
THIS IS A STORY OF WHEN TSUBAME AND MIKE WERE STILL IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.
TO MARK THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF OUR DESTINED MEETING, WHY DON'T WE GET PIERCINGS?
HEYYY, MIKE-CHAN ♥
Tsubame, age 12
Mike, age 15
T-MEC-NOW
YEAH! IN OUR EARS? ♥
...
THAT WAY, IF WE'RE EVER SEPARATED AGAIN, WE'LL HAVE EVEN MORE SIGNS OF OUR DESTINY.
Oh yeah?
SO I BOUGHT US MATCHING RINGS.
YOU THINK WE NEED, LIKE, SOME PIERCING GUN OR SOMETHING?
MAKING THE PIERCING ON OUR OWN WOULD BE TOO SCARY.
NAH. I'LL DO IT. HERE.
WOOSH
All we have to do is heat up this needle with a flame.
WOOSH
What the heck are you carrying a needle and a lighter for?!
UH--
RIGHT NOW?!

To be continued on page 191

YEAH.
I WAS JUST THINKING, SHE LOOKS LIKE... SOMEONE.
HEH. I AIN'T TELLING!
??
LIKE WHO?
I'm so TIRED! Tomorrow we have a location shoot in the morning, so I gotta sleep!
MAYU AND I SEEM TO MERELY DRIFT PAST ONE ANOTHER.
You sure you're all right?
MORNING
See ya tonight
I GUESS IT'S BECAUSE MAYA'S WORK IS GETTING BUSIER.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE THEY STARTED LOOKING FOR BIRTHMARKS ON THUMBS, AND STILL NO PROGRESS.
AUTUMN HAS COME.
Winter uniforms!!


FLUMP
I BORROWED A BUNCH OF BOOKS ON THE EDO PERIOD.*
THERE WE GO.
HEY, BOSS, LET ME SEE YOUR COMPUTER.
HM?
BOSS, WERE YOU LOOKING UP INFORMATION ON "MAYA YUUKI?"
CREATIVE WRITING CLUB
OH, SAY IT WON'T BE SO!
THERE WERE A...LOT MORE THAN I THOUGHT THERE'D BE.
I TRIED LOOKING IT UP ON THE INTERNET; THERE'S JUST TOO MUCH INFORMATION ON THE YOSHIWARA.
Go for it! Maya Mode!!
Birthday: 5/4
Blood Type: B
Character Guide: 4
Mayu Himemiya
She has two faces "Mayu," and "Maya Mode." Both are gorgeous in their own unique ways. Some readers prefer her in Maya mode, some readers prefer the regular Mayu.

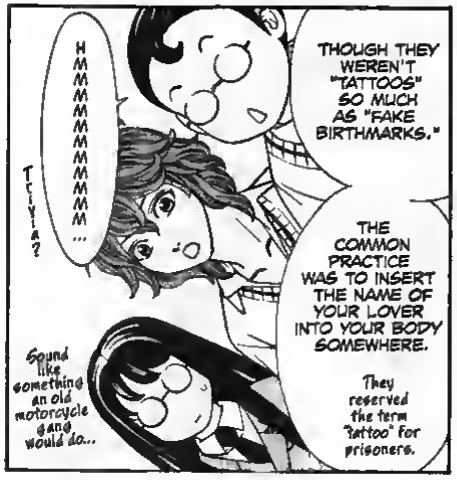
(*Edo Period: in Japanese history, lasting from app. 1603 to 1867.)

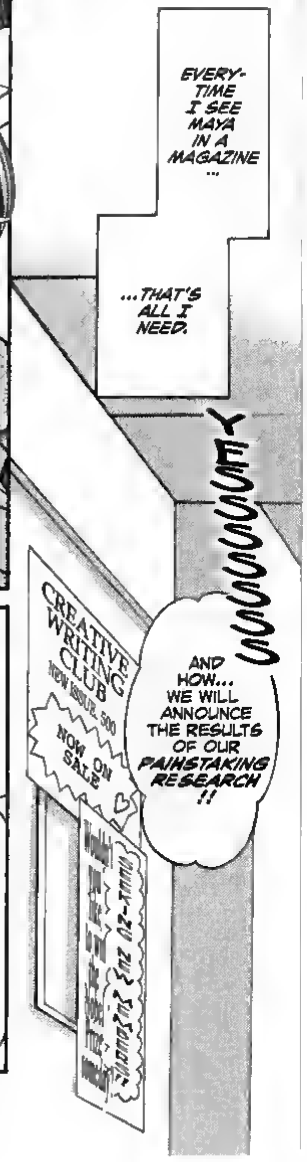
KYAAA
KYAAA
I'D TOTALLY MARRY ARATA-KUN! ♥
I'M NOT EVEN KIDDING!
YOU-- YOU LITTLE CHEATER!
YOU SAID YOU WERE GOING TO MARRY TSUBAME!!
ONLY IF I WAS MARRIED TO TSUBAME FIRST!
WHATEVER!!
SMOOOOOOOOOOOOOOSH
YET THEY STILL DON'T GET IT.
I TOLD THEM I HAD A BOYFRIEND.
BUT IT SEEMS LIKE I'M EVEN CLOSER FRIENDS WITH TSUBAME.
ALL I NEED IS MAYA, ANYWAY.
BADAIR
AND THE GIRLS IN THE CLASS STILL HATE ME.
whisper whisper
Hey~
?

To become a gorgeous actress, you must first master the ace!!
Yes, Kano-coach!!
You will hit an age!
You will stand!
HEH HEH HEH
ALL BECAUSE I GAVE MAYU SPECIAL "MAYA IMAGE TRAINING" EVERY NIGHT! YESS!
OTTESTELLE FASHION
THOUGH I GUESS, IF MAYA'S GETTING POPULAR..
...THAT MEANS I WAS RIGHT.
OOH, LET ME SEE.
OH! THERE'S AN ARTICLE ON "SPLASH!"
IF YOU COULD TOTALLY GO OUT WITH ONE OF THEM, WHICH ONE WOULD IT BE?!
YEAH WOO
HOOOO ♥ THEY'RE SO COOL!!
I'D GO FOR PRINCE ARATA, DEFINITELY!!
TAIJU'S HIS LITTLE BROTHER?
OH MY GOD, I'D TOTALLY GO OUT WITH HISATO-KUN!
I LIKE KANEKO-KUN! HE'S THAT "GUY NEXT DOOR" TYPE.

GLAAAAA
AND IT HURT!! OH, YES, IT HURT !!
IT HURT A...IT HURT A LOT !!
Now it sounds like a yakuza movie...
OR IF THE SITUATION WAS DIRE...
...THEY WOULD DIG IT OUT WITH THEIR OWN FINGER-NAILS.
OR-- OR-- THEY WOULD CUT THE FINGER OFF.
THEY INSERTED THE IMAGES WITH A NEEDLE, OR A RAZOR.
AND IF THEY LEFT THE MAN OR FOUND ANOTHER LOVER THEY WOULD SMOLDER THE MARK IN ASHES.
IT WAS A MEASURE OF HOW INDEBTED THE LADY OF THE NIGHT WAS TO HER CLIENT.
HUH
THIS IS A COMMITMENT THAT WILL LEAD PEOPLE TO DO THINGS LIKE COMMIT LOVERS SUICIDE.
CREATIVE WRITING CLUB
COME ON IN!
NOW, ABOUT YOUR BUTTERFLY BIRTHMARK ..
BECAUSE I CLEARLY MUST HAVE--
WELL, OF COURSE I WOULDN'T HAVE CUT IT OFF !!
IT'S NICE YOU STILL HAVE YOUR THUMB, ISN'T IT, TSUBAME !

CREATIVE WRITING CLUB
FIRST OF ALL..
ABOUT THE TATTOOS.
APPARENTLY MATCHING TATTOOS WERE COMMON AMONG LADIES OF THE NIGHT AND THEIR MOST TRUSTED CLIENTS IN THE EDO PERIOD.


HMMMMMMMMMMMMMM...
TRIVIA?
Sound like something an old motorcycle gang would do...
THOUGH THEY WEREN'T "TATTOOS" SO MUCH AS "FAKE BIRTHMARKS."
THE COMMON PRACTICE WAS TO INSERT THE NAME OF YOUR LOVER INTO YOUR BODY SOMEWHERE.
They reserved the term "tattoo" for prisoners.


EVERY-TIME I SEE MAYA IN A MAGAZINE ...
...THAT'S ALL I NEED.
YES!!
AND HOW... WE WILL ANNOUNCE THE RESULTS OF OUR PAINSTAKING RESEARCH !!
CREATIVE WRITING CLUB
NOW ON SALE

SO...
...TO MAKE IT SO I'D NEVER FORGETTHE SENSATION OF HOLDING HANDS...
...I PUT A TATTOO INTO THE THUMB OF MY LEFT HAND.
SEE, I WAS ALWAYS HOLDING MY GIRLFRIEND'S RIGHT HAND!!
EVEN IF YOU WERE DOING SOMETHING WITH YOUR RIGHT HAND...
...YOU'D STILL BE ABLE TO HOLD HER HAND WITH YOUR LEFT HAND?
OH!! YOUR LEFT HAND, HUH...

I WONDER WHY..
IT'S ON YOUR LEFT THUMB.
MIKE AND KANOKO'S BIRTHMARKS ARE ON THEIR *RIGHT* THUMBS.
YOU SEE...
WELL, UH...
AND WHEN THEY HOLD HANDS ...
THE PLACE WHERE THEIR HANDS FIRST TOUCH ...
...IS THE *THUMBS*.
LOVERS...
THEY HOLD HANDS, RIGHT?

NO LOITERING
OKAY SO, UM, YOU SAID THE NAMES WERE "AGEMAKI" AND "SUKEROKU?"
IT SEEMS THAT THERE REALLY *WERE* PEOPLE WITH SUCH NAMES IN THE EDO PERIOD.
GAAA
GAAA
...
R--
IT *ALSO* SEEMS...
THAT THERE WAS A *KABUKI PLAY* MADE ABOUT THEIR LOVE STORY.
...WE...
SO, EVEN THOUGH WE DON'T KNOW IF THOSE TWO PEOPLE REALLY *WERE* YOUR PAST SELVES...
YEAH.
A true story getting made into a kabuki play back then is like a TV drama show being made now!!
...

WITH YOUR RIGHT HAND ...
...YOU *FOUGHT TO PROTECT HER?!*
YOU *FOOL*, WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL US THIS AWESOME STORY SOONER ?!
TSUBAME, YOU'RE A *LIVING LOVE STORY* !!
PERFECT !! ...THAT'S SO *PERFECT* !!
WAA!

THE PLACE WE FIRST TOUCH WHEN WE HOLD HANDS
THERE IS A PAST LIFE AFTER ALL!!
SO THAT MEANS...
MY BIRTH-MARK, TOO...
NAIL
OH--
DRIP
HAS A COUNTER-PART...

YOU GOT IT! YOU DID IT!!
MAN, WOW-- I LOVE YOU, BOSS!!
squeeze
GO ROMANTIC...
HEY, NOW, I SAID I DIDN'T KNOW YET...
NO, NO, IT'S DEFI-NITELY ME, THEN!!
I MUST FIND HER !!
I MUST FIND "AGEMAKI!!"

WHAT?
I DON'T TRUST YOU--SO JUST DO THE LEFT HAND.
NO!!
NAIL POLISH.. MAKEUP..
COME ON NOW, LET'S SEE...
IT JUST...
WHY NOT?!
I DON'T DO IT THAT WAY!!
I SAID FORGET IT!!
IT JUST WOULD NOT LOOK RIGHT ON... ME.
I just want to paint your nails!!
NO I DON'T!!
REALLY! I WON'T TOUCH IT!!
NO, NO.
YOU JUST WANT TO TOUCH THE BIRTHMARK ON MY THUMB AGAIN, DON'T YOU?!
EVERYTHING LOOKS RIGHT ON MAYU, THOUGH...
I TOLD YOU NO.
IT'S NOT MY THING! DON'T YOU SEE? I'M NOT A GIRLY GIRL!!
CURLY?
NO! I SAID, "GIRLY," NOT "CURLY."
GRRRR

SHRRR
RRRRR
CINE PAIR KARLTON
WE CAN'T KEEP THE NAIL SALON OPEN IN THIS RAIN.
AW, MAN.
HEY, KANOKO?
WANT ME TO PAINT YOUR NAILS?
WH--WHAT?
WHAT SHOULD WE DO NOW?
THE HECK?!
WHY IS IT JUST ME AND HIM ALL OF A SUDDEN?

IF I SAY I THINK YOU'RE PRETTY ...
...IT MEANS YOU HAVE SOMETHING I THINK I CAN SEE THAT OTHER PEOPLE MAYBE CAN'T.
KANOKO-- YOU KNOW, I'M NOT LYING TO YOU.
YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T THINK ABOUT YOURSELF THAT WAY.
I like Moomin, seriously!
WHAT? DID I MAKE YOU MAD?
SEE, THE REASON I LIKE PAINTING NAILS ..
...IS BECAUSE IT HELPS ME DRAW THAT BEAUTY OUT A PERSON.
I PAINT EACH GIRL'S NAILS IN A WAY THAT SUITS ONLY THEM.
NOT IN SOME WAY THAT ANYONE WOULD THINK IS UNNECESSARY.
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...

??
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I THINK YOU'RE PRETTY, KANOKO.
UM ...
WHAT DO YOU CALL IT...?
I THINK YOU'D LOOK REALLY GOOD WITH THAT...
OH MY GOD.
LOOK, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO LURE ME INTO YOUR VAN WITH ANY CANDY, OKAY?
THE FEAR !!
M
THAT LITTLE THING IN THE "MOOMIN" THING...
NO, REALLY !!

...OKAY.
HE'S SO AWKWARDLY HONEST...
OR RATHER ...
HE IS INCAPABLE OF TELLING A LIE.
I GUESS ...
HE HASN'T TOLD ME ANY LIES SO FAR.
SO THAT'S WHY...
...PEOPLE LIKE HIM SO MUCH.
ALL RIGHT.
FINISHED.

WOW
BECAUSE YOUR NAILS WERE SUCH A PRETTY SHADE OF PINK TO BEGIN WITH...
I PAINTED IN A VARIATION OF FRENCH NAILS.
WHAT DO YOU THINK? THE GIRLS AT SCHOOL WILL BE REALLY ENVIOUS OF YOU.
OH!
OH, NO!! I WILL CONSIDER THIS PRACTICE !!
OH--I GUESS I OWE YOU... HOW MUCH WAS IT ?
OH NO, THE PLEASURE IS ALL MINE!!
...THANKS.
SHRRRRR
MAN, I REALLY SHOULD HAVE BROUGHT AN UMBRELLA, HUH?!
CHAAK
No. I'm paying.
How much ?
Free.
Okay then, I'll pay for your tea.
Too late. I already paid for both of us.

NEVER...!
"...DEAL WITH" BEING A "GIRL" BEFORE.
I WON-DER...
IS THIS...
...WHAT IT'S LIKE TO HAVE A "BOYFRIEND?"

HMM?
HERE-- I'LL HOLD IT FOR YOU.
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...
"HE'D HOLD HER HAND WITH HIS LEFT HAND ..."
I GUESS I'VE NEVER HAD TO...!
"AND WITH HIS RIGHT, HE WOULD PROTECT HER!!"
HE'S SO...
HE'S SO...NICE. HE'S EVEN STANDING CLOSER TO THE STREET.

HEY, HEY- DON'T OPEN THE WIN-DOW !!
GAH !!
IT IS KANOKO !!
There are too many people out there...
IT REALLY WAS HER.
AND SHE'S WALKING WITH A GUY.
IS SHE ON A DATE ?!
WH-- WHAT'S WRONG, MAYA?
OH--
MAN ...
WHY WAS SHE KEEPING THIS GUY A SECRET FROM ME?
SHE HAD A LOT OF FRIENDS BACK AROUND THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL--
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, KANOKO'S BEEN COMING HOME LATER THESE DA-S...

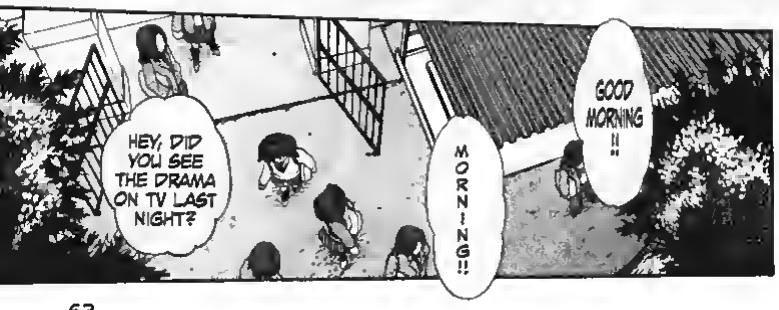
YAWN
MAN, TOO BAD IT STARTED RAINING LIKE THIS.
I see you yawning !!
LITTLE BIT.
WE'LL HAVE TO MOVE THE LOCATION SHOOT TO TOMORROW.
TIRED, MAYA?
I WANT TO GO SHOPPING, TOO...
MAAAN
LOOK AT THOSE PEOPLE
RRROOOAAAR
HM ?
THAT LOOKS LIKE KANOKO ?

KANOKO.
I SEE YOU'VE BEEN DOING YOUR NAILS.
OH, THIS?
NO?
THIS STUPID FRIEND OF MINE MADE ME LET HIM--HER-- PAINT MY NAILS.
KANOKO!
I'VE GOT TO GO DO MY HOMEWORK NOW!!
stomp stomp
YOU'VE... NEVER DONE YOUR NAILS BEFORE ...

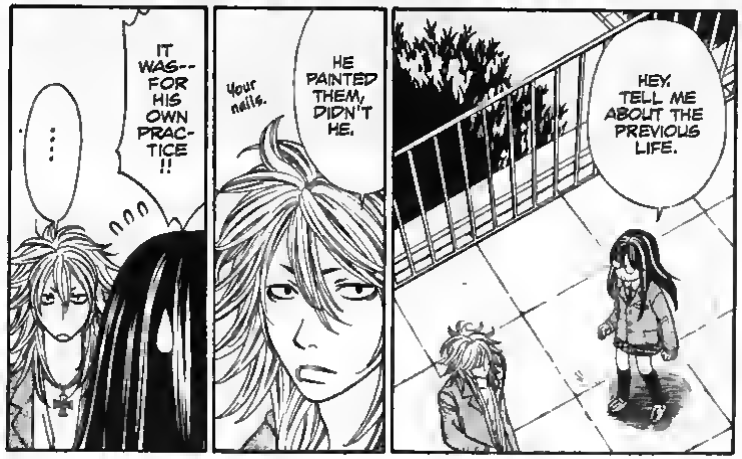
MAYU! YOU'RE HOME!!
... YES. I... AM.
HEY.
WERE YOU WALKING OUT ON THE STREET TODAY?
...WITH A GUY?
...UH?
UH... NO. I WASN'T?
SHE USED TO ALWAYS TALK ABOUT BEING "TOGETHER FOREVER."
AND WHILE I'M SO BUSY WITH... WORK...
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!!

YOU LIAR.
"WHAT DO YOU MEAN?"
"I THINK YOU'RE PRETTY, KANOKO."
...BUT HAVING MY NAILS PAINTED CHANGES HOW I FEEL...
THEY LOOK LIKE FLOWER PETALS

AND...WHEN HE WAS PAINTING MY FINGERNAILS...
YOU'RE PRETTY!!"
I DON'T GET IT.
WHY DID THAT WORD SURPRISE ME SO MUCH?
WHAT'S... WRONG WITH ME?


HEY, DID YOU SEE THE DRAMA ON TV LAST NIGHT?
MORNING!!
GOOD MORNING!!

HEY!!
OOH!! YOUR NAILS ARE STILL PAINTED!!
I'm so happy!!
WELL, THAT'S JUST BECAUSE I DON'T HAVE ANY NAIL POLISH REMOVER.
WELL, IF YOU GET SOME, I CAN PAINT THEM DIFFERENT NEXT TIME!!
MORNING!!
Are you like twelve or something?!
Kanoko-chan what's with your fingernails?!


IT WAS-- FOR HIS OWN PRACTICE!!
HE PAINTED THEM, DIDN'T HE.
Your nails.
HEY. TELL ME ABOUT THE PREVIOUS LIFE.

SO TSUBAME WAS SAYING HIS PREVIOUS SELF PUT THE TATTOO ON HIS LEFT THUMB AND THE GIRL PUT HERS ON HER RIGHT THUMB?
THAT MEANS YOU WERE A GIRL IN YOUR PREVIOUS LIFE, THEN?
ANYWAY
ALL RIGHT~
HEY!!
...I FORGOT EVERY-THING ABOUT MY PREVIOUS LIFE.

.....YES.
THIS TATTOO..
...WAS QUITE POPULAR AT THE SHOP WHERE I... WORKED.
I SERVICED CLIENTS IN A RED LIGHT DISTRICT.
YES. I WAS A WOMAN.
Calm your imagination.

YOU THINK MAYBE...
ME AND YOU...
COULD GIVE IT A TRY?
...HEY.
IF WE CAN ONLY SEE THE VISIONS OF OUR PREVIOUS LIVES...
HMMMMMMMM
AND I CERTAINLY DON'T WANT TO TOUCH THUMBS WITH TSUBAME AGAIN...
"WHEN WE TOUCH THUMBS"

LEMME SEE--
IT'S AN UNOFFICIAL FANSITE FOR MAYA YUUKI.
IT'S PRETTY INTENSE STUFF.
EEW.
WHAT THE HECK IS THIS SITE?
CREATIVE WRITING CLUB
QUARTERLY JOURNAL
500 YEN
NOW ON SALE

THE FIRST ONE TO RECEIVE THIS TATTOO...
...WAS AGEMAKI.

I DON'T GET IT. I JUST DON'T GET IT.
I MEAN, NOT THAT I'D EXPECT MYSELF TO REMEMBER IT OR ANYTHING...
...
...I SUPPOSE SO, HUH.
AND...
...WELL, YOU'RE NOT AGEMAKI, YOU SAID SO...
THEN WHERE WAS I IN ALL OF THIS?
DOES THIS MEAN YOU... KNEW AGEMAKI?

"MAYA-CHAN IS MY DESTINED LOVE."
HE'S A REAL FANATIC.
I DON'T THINK SO.
Man, how did I get to this site anyway?
"SOON, VERY SOON, SHE WILL UNDERSTAND THAT."
...M.
WELL.
TAKE A LOOK AT THIS IMAGE.
THAT LOOKS LIKE OUR SCHOOL..
WE'VE OFFICIALLY FINISHED SHOOTING "DEAR SANTA CLAUSE!!"
CLICK
EXCELLENT WORK, EVERYBODY !!
MAYA-CHAN!!
WE HOPE TO WORK WITH YOU AGAIN IN THE FUTURE !!
IT WAS A WISE DECISION TO SELECT YOU AS OUR HEROINE !!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
THAT'S GOOD ...
"MAYA" PULLED IT OFF NICELY..
DON'T SPILL IT THIS TIME !!
SORRY ABOUT THAT...
OH--
KANEKO-KUN.
HERE YOU GO.

IT'D BE REALLY NICE TO WORK WITH YOU AGAIN, MAYA!
YEAH...
NOW THAT THIS GIG HAS ENDED...
I WON'T BE ABLE TO MEET KANEKO-SAN ANYMORE...
THAT'S RIGHT...
HE'S SUCH A NICE GUY...
A GOOD GUY...
MAYBE HE'D BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND ME...
IT'S TOO BAD...
I WAS ABLE TO TALK SO COMFORTABLY WITH HIM...

I MEAN, HE'S SUCH A FAMOUS GUY ALREADY...
I JUST...
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
...NAH.
WELL, WHAT ABOUT YOURSELF?
NOW, NOW, THE HEROINE OF THE STORY MUSTN'T HIDE AWAY...
THERE YOU ARE...
OH--
HA HA
THEN YOU MADE A BAD CAREER CHOICE!!
HA HA
MAYBE I DID!!
HEH.
ME, TOO...
I get all wobbly.
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I CAN'T STAND CROWDED PLACES.

UM...
ANYWAY...
MAYBE YOU COULD UH... CAN I ASK FOR YOUR CELLPHONE NUMBER
OH, MAN...
KANOKO WOULD TOTALLY TELL ME "TOTALLY DON'T TELL HIM YOUR PHONE NUMBER."
DON'T!!
TOTALLY
UM...
I JUST...
NEVER-MIND--
UM... WELL...
OH.
I'M SORRY...
OH, MAN, HE'S GONNA HATE ME...
....

NO-- KANOKO'LL--
"NO!!"
"WITH A GUY? ME?
SHE'S SUCH A LIAR.
I MEAN...
EVEN KANOKO'S GOING OUT ON DATES BEHIND MY BACK...
OH--
REALLY?
...SURE.
I GUESS I CAN TELL HIM...
KANOKO BETRAYED ME FIRST.
HERE YOU GO.
OKAY...
ALL RIGHT--
BACK
CHANGE
SELECT
ALL RIGHT, I GOT IT.
I'LL SEND YOU A TEXT MESSAGE NOW.
OH.
THERE YOU ARE!!

CHAPTER 7/END

YOUR BOYFRIEND?
OH, YEAH...
SOME-HOW...
TSUBAME IS DOING MY NAILS EVERY DAY NOW.
OH YEAH? WOW, THAT'S GREAT.
The girls' handiwork
OH, MAN, TSUBAME STILL THINKS I HAVE A BOY-FRIEND. WHAT A DOOFUS.
YOU KEEP YOUR NAILS REALLY SHORT, HUH? NOT MUCH TO WORK WITH...
My own personal nail artist
YOUR NAILS ARE CHIPPING.
OH--

J-PHANE
MAN, NO MESSAGES...
I HAD A DREAM LAST NIGHT...
I DON'T REMEMBER MUCH OF IT, THOUGH.
YOU'RE ALWAYS SENDING TEXTS, HUH, KANOKO?
DID I DO SOME-THING TO OFFEND HER?
MAYU ISN'T TEXTING SO MUCH LATELY.
I DON'T EVEN GET TO TALK TO HER AT HOME ANYMORE.

Character Guide 5

Kiki Nomura

Birthday: 8/2
Blood Type O

- Kiki is the school literary magazine editor and an aspiring novelist. Since appearing on the scene, the story's progress has sped up nicely!
- She seems to be kind of weirdly like a father to the characters, spurring them on when they get lazy. Either way, the author really likes her, so give her a hand!

FOR THAT PURPOSE ...
I WILL FIND PROOF OF MY LOVE WITH AGEMAKI.
KANOKO! YOU MUST HAVE DREAMS !!
WHY?!
GOOD THING YOU'RE OPTI-MISTIC ...
...WHAT ABOUT MIKE?
HE SAID TSUBAME WOULD BE UNHAPPY ..
THE PAST
THE WAY I SEE IT IS ...
EVEN IF OUR BODIES ARE GONE ...
...OUR SOULS REMAIN.
MYSTERIOUS LIFE
THE WORLD
THE PRESENT
WE ARE REBORN AGAIN AND AGAIN.
THAT'S HOW WE KNOW OUR SOULS WILL REMAIN.
THE SOUL
DON'T SAY THINGS LIKE THAT!!
WE ARE NEVER FORGOTTEN! WE CAN LEAVE THINGS BEHIND !!

"FOR-EVER," HUH?
THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS "FOREVER."
"YOU WANTED SOMETHING THAT WOULD LAST FOREVER..."
THAT'S WHY YOU GOT THE TATTOO.
YOUR NAILS MUST GROW FAST ?
OH, I GET IT.
WE'RE BORN, AND WE DIE.
EVEN IF WE FALL IN LOVE, WE WILL SOON FORGET.
Kanoko, you should be careful not to say such things to your boyfriend!!
I don't think he'd mind.
OH YES THERE IS!!
EWOOH
EVERY-BODY'S GOING TO DIE SOMEDAY.

HEY, KANOKO-CHAN?
I HAD SUCH A WEIRD DREAM YESTERDAY.
THAT'S WHY...
YES.
WE CAN ALL BE HAPPY!
AS LONG AS WE BELIEVE !!
HOW COULD I HAVE A DREAM ABOUT YOU--
GAH
--OH, COME ON.
MAN.

I MUST REFUSE.
HUH?
SO WHY DON'T YOU AND ME TOUCH THUMBS, MIKE?
WE'LL SEE VISIONS OF THE PAST LIFE, AND--
YOU...
I CANNOT YET GUARANTEE THAT YOU ARE NOT "AGEMAKI."
WH--
I...
NO, THERE'S NO WAY I CAN BE AGEMAKI.
YOUR AURA NOW DIFFERS FROM BEFORE.
YOU SAID "AGEMAKI" WAS THE ONE AT THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL?
I AM NOT SURE.

STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
MAYBE SHE..... SHE'S BEGINNING TO...
...BELIEVE?!
TSU-BAME WAS...
...HANGING FROM A BRIDGE BY HIS FINGER-NAILS.
THAT DREAM...

GAAAAAH
UH...
YOU HAD A DREAM ABOUT..
ME?!
GGGEEEEE
YOOOWWW
I MEAN-- YOU--
ALL YOU SAY ARE DREAMY THINGS-- UH--
WHAT WAS I WEARING?
NOT LIKE THAT!!
SLAM
I MEAN, YOU HAVE TO REALLY GET HOLD OF YOURSELF OR PEOPLE ARE GOING TO TRICK YOU, IS WHAT I MEAN!!
GOODBYE!!

OH, I'M FLATTERED.
WOW, THIS IS REALLY GREAT.
REALLY, REALLY GREAT TO BE HERE WITH YOU, MAYA.
YEAH, REALLY.
I REALLY DON'T.
KEPT THINKING... MAYA'S GOT TO HAVE A BOYFRIEND OR SOMETHING.
YOU REALLY DON'T HAVE ONE?
AFTER ALL...
...IT SHOULDN'T BE TOO HARD TO KEEP THIS A SECRET FROM KANOKO.

THANKS.
I PULLED HIM UP...
HEY, LOOK.
IT'S KANOKO-CHAN.
I WONDER WHY I SAW SUCH A WEIRD DREAM...
I...

UH-OH.
OH, MAN, I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO MENTION KANOKO...
MAYA, I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD A SISTER !!
I..... DO.
WOW. YOU LEARN SOMETHING NEW EVERY DAY. WOW.
I BET YOUR LITTLE SISTER'S A REAL LOOKER TOO, HUH ?
THOUGH, UH...THAT BIRTHMARK ...
YOUR SISTER HAS THE SAME ONE?
YEAH... KINDA WEIRD, HUH?
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, MINE USED TO BE FAINTER.
IT SEEMS LIKE IT'S GETTING DARKER AS I GET OLDER.
HMMMMMM...

IF KANOKO KNEW I WAS GOING OUT WITH THIS GUY, SHE'D FREAK.
SHE'D PROBABLY NEVER WANT ANYTHING TO DO WITH ME AGAIN.
HM? WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT YOUR FINGER LIKE THAT?
HAVE YOU ALWAYS HAD THAT BIRTH-MARK ON YOUR THUMB?
IT'S KINDA INTER-ESTING, ISN'T IT?
OH-- UM ...
NO-- NO. KA-NOKO BE-TRAYED ME FIRST.
SHE HAS WOUNDED MY HEART ...
THERE'S GOT TO BE SOME KIND OF COOL STORY BEHIND IT.
IT'S BEEN HERE SINCE I WAS BORN.
HM? NO, NO. IT'S JUST AN ORDINARY BIRTHMARK.
I ALWAYS THOUGHT IT WAS PROOF OF SOMETHING.
SINCE MY LITTLE SISTER HAS THE SAME BIRTHMARK AND ALL--
...YOU HAVE A SISTER?

AND TODAY, I...CAME TO LIKE YOU A LOT MORE.
WILL YOU... BE...MY GIRLFRIEND?
...UH .....
AH-- I...
.....
.....OU CAN ANSWER ME LATER.
ANY-WAY, GOOD NIGHT !!
VROOM

SO, UH, GOOD-NIGHT OR SOME-THING !!
OH-- THIS IS CLOSE ENOUGH. ANYWAY, THANKS FOR TODAY !!
I'LL TEXT YOU AGAIN SOME-TIME.
...I...
...I'VE LIKED YOU FOR A LONG TIME, MAYA...

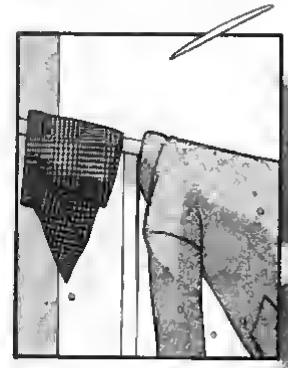
I ALMOST FORGOT. GYAH
OH, YES.
THERE ARE RUMORS ABOUT ME NOW.
SLOOOM
SLAM
heh heh
KER
SPLOSH

CHATTER
KK BOOKSTORE IS HAVING A MAYA YUUKI BOOK SIGNING TOMORROW...
REALLY? I'M SO GOING...
CHATTER
THEY RELEASED A PHOTO BOOK OF MAYU...
OH, YES... THE BOOK SIGNING.
SLAM
I HOPE MAYU CAN PULL IT OFF ALL RIGHT.
I WONDER--
WHAT DOES TSUBAME SEE IN THAT LITTLE SHRIMP?
KANEKO-KUN...

WHAT THE HELL IS THIS, KINDER-GARTEN?
YOU THINK YOUR MOTHERS WOULD APPROVE OF THIS?
YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF YOUR-SELVES.
K/K/...
SAY THAT AGAIN..
YOU JUST WANT TO SHOW OFF YOUR BOOBS BECAUSE YOU'VE GOT THEM?
AND YOU'RE THE ONE WHO LEAVES HER TOP SHIRT BUTTON UN-DONE.
YEAH! THAT'S JUST CREEPY.
GRRRR!!
WHAT THE HECK!!
HUH?!
WELL, SEMPAI, YOU WERE THE ONE SELLING NAUGHTY BOOKS AT THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL!!

HIMEMIYA-SAN, YOU'RE ALL WET!!
SNICKER
SNICKER
HEY! WHAT HAP-PENED?
KANOKO, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
THERE IS NOTHING TO GAIN FROM--
I MUST NOT ENGAGE THEM.
THESE FOOLS.
WILL THEY EVER GROW UP, I WONDER?
THESE PEOPLE...
YOU SHOULD BE MORE CAREFUL!!
AHHHH...
DID YOU DO THAT TO YOUR-SELF?

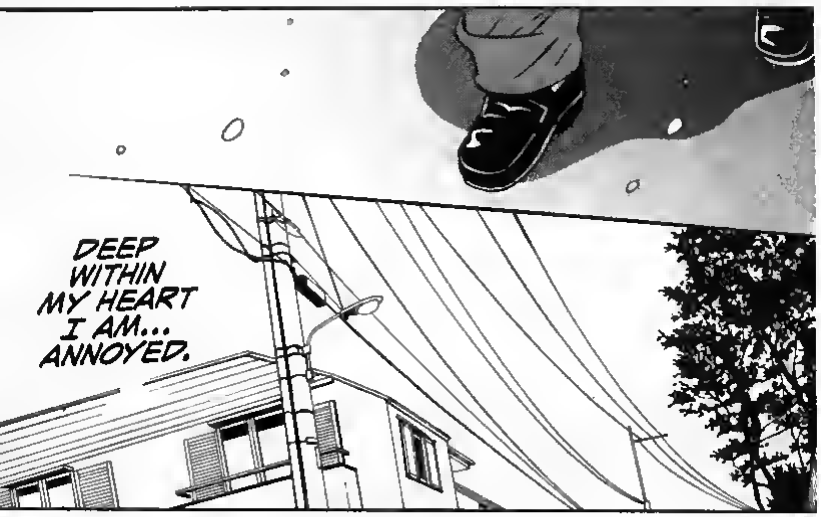
I WISH THEY'D ALL JUST IGNORE ME, LIKE USUAL.
NOT LIKE I CARE IF THEY HATE ME, ANYWAY.
I THINK THEY DON'T LIKE YOU, KANOKO!
WHAT GAVE YOU THAT IDEA.
OH, COME ON.
YOU HATE THEM.
...BECAUSE YOU WISH YOU COULD JUST IGNORE THEM.
YOU'RE TOO HARD ON YOUR-SELF.
DON'T BETRAY YOUR OWN FEELINGS, MAN.



ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
NO PROB-LEM AT ALL.
See I won
THE BUST SIZE
....

THEY'RE JEALOUS!
NOW THAT YOU AND TSUBAME ARE CLOSE "FRIENDS."

STAY BACK!!
IT'S NOT LIKE YOUR GIRLS HAVE ANYTHING TO SHOW!!
ALL RIGHT GIRLS, SHIRTS OFF, ALL OF YOU!!
KYAAAAA!!
HELP ME!!
SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING BIG IS GOING DOWN IN THE GIRLS' RESTROOM.
What?
Really?
Oh?



I WONDER ...

I THOUGHT I WAS DOING GOOD.

I'VE BEEN AT PEACE WITH MYSELF.

ALL THIS TIME ...

YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO MAKE ANY *REAL* FRIENDS THAT WAY.

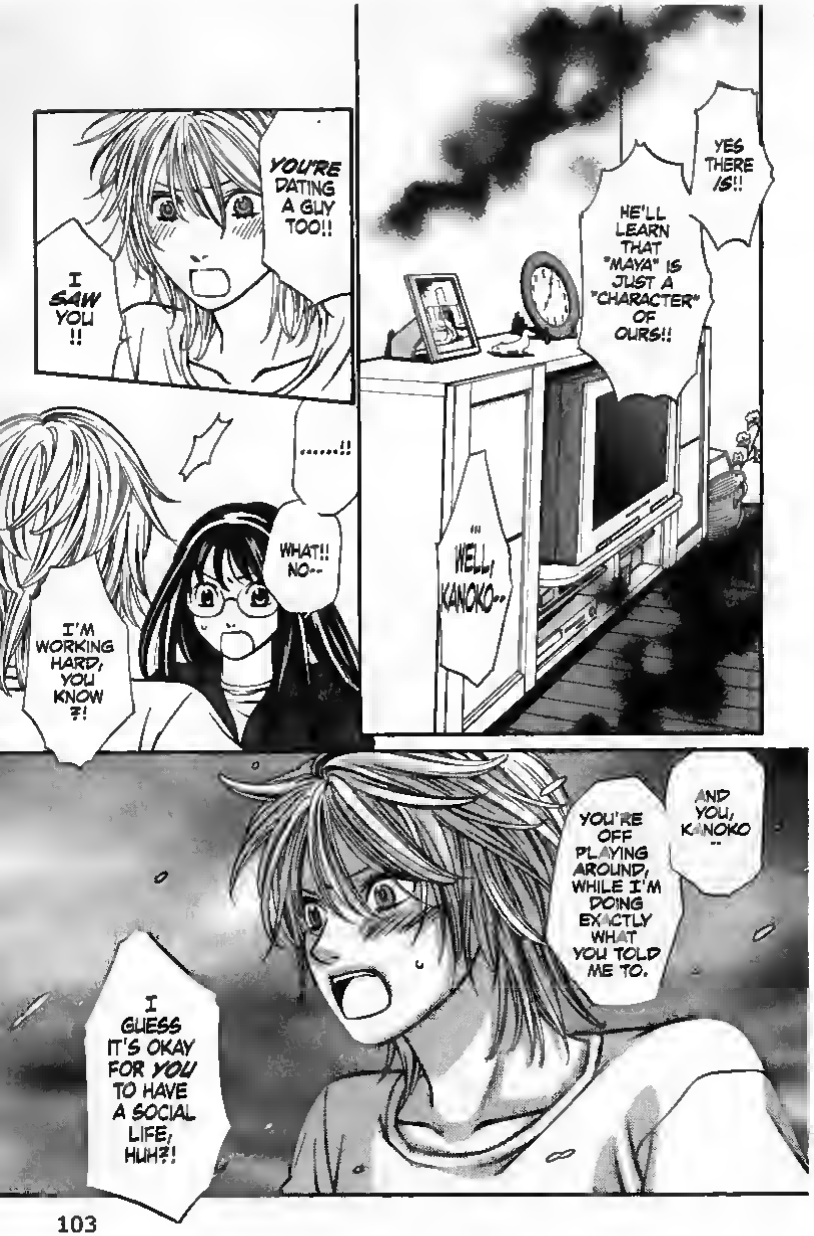
MUCH LESS A REAL *BOY-FRIEND*.

I THINK, MAN, MY LIFE...
IT'S SO BORING ...
AND YET ...
WHEN I LOOK AT TSUBAME, OR KIKI...
I'M NOT AS GOOD.

I JUST...
...DON'T WANT TO LOSE TO ANYONE.
I'M HOME.
HM?
IS MAYU HOME YET?
IT'S ... MAYU'S ...

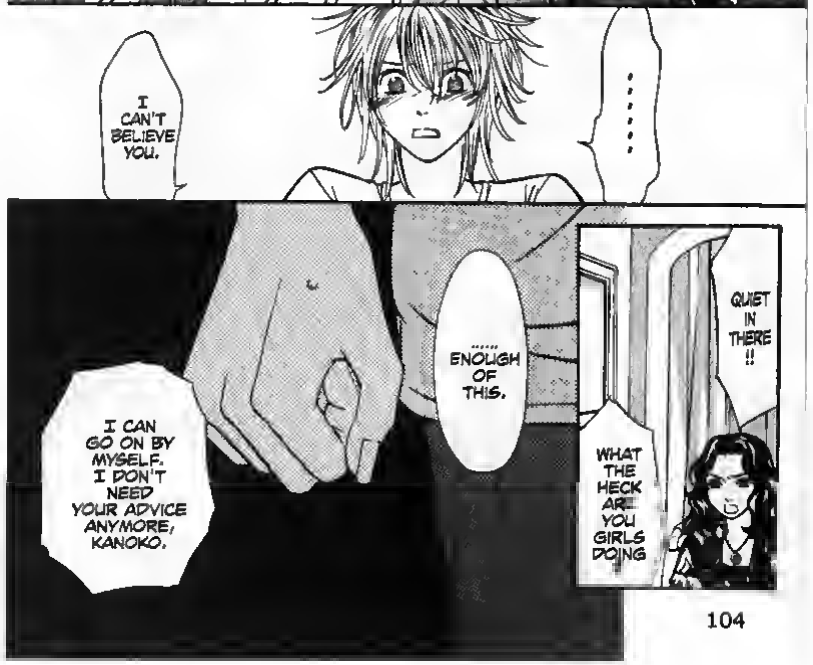
OH...
I LEFT MY BAG IN THE LIVING ROOM..
CLICK
♪
MOS!
WHERE IS IT?
MY CELL PHONE
HM?
YOU LOOKING FOR THIS?

HUH...?
I ERASED ALL THE DATA INSIDE, THOUGH.
AND I CANCELED YOUR CONTRACT. SO TOMORROW, GO BUY A NEW PHONE.
KANOKO?
KANOKO?
DID YOU... LOOK AT MY PHONE?


YOU'RE DATING A GUY TOO!!
I SAW YOU !!
.....!!
WHAT!! NO--
I'M WORKING HARD, YOU KNOW?!
YES THERE IS!!
HE'LL LEARN THAT "MAYA" IS JUST A "CHARACTER" OF OURS!!
"WELL, KANOKO--"
AND YOU, KANOKO --
YOU'RE OFF PLAYING AROUND, WHILE I'M DOING EXACTLY WHAT YOU TOLD ME TO.
I GUESS IT'S OKAY FOR YOU TO HAVE A SOCIAL LIFE, HUH?!

WHY DID YOU DO THAT?!?!
NO!!
TELL ME! WHY THE HECK DID YOU LOOK AT IT?!
GIVE IT! GIVE ME BACK MY PHONE!!
TELL ME WHY THE HECK YOU DID WHAT YOU DID, THEN !!
.....OH COME ON, THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH... WITH... TEXTING HIM!!
IS THIS "KANEKO-KUN" YOU WERE TEXTING THE VERY SAME SHUNJI KANEKO YOU WERE IN THAT DRAMA WITH, HMM?

WHENEVER YOU COME CRYING I'M THERE FOR YOU !!
WHAT THE HECK ?!
I DO EVERY-THING FOR YOU!!


I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU.
.....
I CAN GO ON BY MYSELF. I DON'T NEED YOUR ADVICE ANYMORE, KANOKO.
.....ENOUGH OF THIS.
QUIET IN THERE !!
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU GIRLS DOING

YOU AND ME ARE FINISHED, KANOKO !!
GOOD! GOOD! BECAUSE I DON'T WANT TO HELP YOU ANYMORE !!
SLAM
SLAM
SLAM
WHAT IS GOING ON ?!
.....MAYU?
KANOKO?.

HEY, HIME-MIYA SAN?
I WANNA GO HOME.
PE.
STAGGER
STAGGER
tee hee
tee hee
"PLEASE COME TO THE CLUB ROOM AT LUNCH TIME."
K-K-K-KIKI S-S-SAID TO TELL YOU... UH:
THE CLUB ROOM, HUH?
I wonder what she wants...
OKAY-- WE TOLD HER. LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!!
Survival of the fittest
HURRY!!
And now they're afraid of me...

UNTIL MORNING ...
I LAY AWAKE, THINKING.

WAAAH WAHH
IDAAAAAS
WHY DID IT HAVE TO COME TO THIS?
WE WERE WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE OUR DREAMS COME TRUE...
THINGS WERE GOING SO WELL ..
WHY ON EARTH ..
I CAN'T ...
I CAN'T LET IT END LIKE THIS.
NO, NOT LIKE THIS.

WONDER WHAT HE WAS LOOKING AT...
MY DEAREST MAYA
"I'M ON MY WAY. SEE YOU SOON."
IT'S A FAN-SITE FOR MAYA ...?
AND THIS IS... OUR SCHOOL ??
SLAM
"MY DEAREST MAYA?"
AND THESE ARE... BUTTER-FLIES ?

CHATTER
CHATTER
DING-DONG-
DONG DONG-
SKRRR
WRITING
CREATIVE WRITING CLUB
JOIN US!!!
IT'S KAZAMI-KUN'S LAPTOP
HE LEFT IT CON-NECTED TO THE INTERNET ...
...HM?
Maybe she tricked me?!
NO-BODY HERE.

MAYU--SHE'S
MIKE-SAN!!
SHE'S IN TROUBLE!!
HM?
WE HAVE TO GET TO HER BOOK SIGNING, LIKE, RIGHT NOW!!

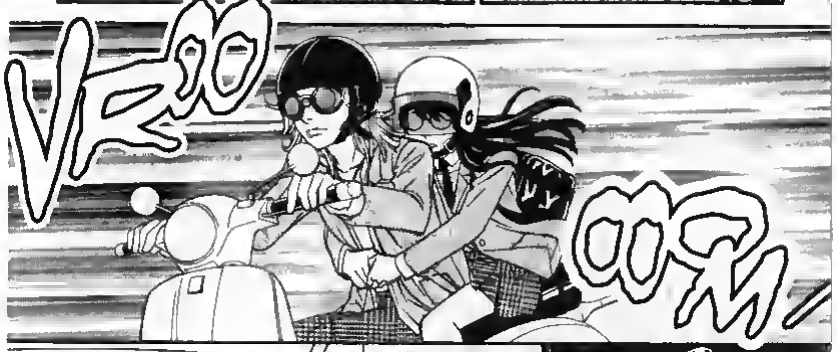
THAT WEIRD GUY IN THE HAT?
YOU THINK THIS MIGHT BE...HIM?
POP
THIS MEANS HE'S BEEN TO OUR SCHOOL?
OH, MAN...
AND TODAY IS MAYA'S BOOK-SIGNING!!
KANOKO. I SEE YOU MADE IT.
HEY, BOSS--THE IMAGE ON THE PAGE IS DIFFERENT FROM THIS MORNING.
WOW--SHE WAS MORE SURPRISED THAN I THOUGHT SHE'D BE.
STAMP
WE WILL DO NOTHING TO HARM YOU--JUST TELL US YOUR SECRET, AND--
YOUR PRESENT DISTURBANCE PROVES THAT THERE IS ONE.
DON!!
NOW, TELL US--WHAT IS YOUR CONNECTION TO MAYA YUUKI?

MAYU
!!!!

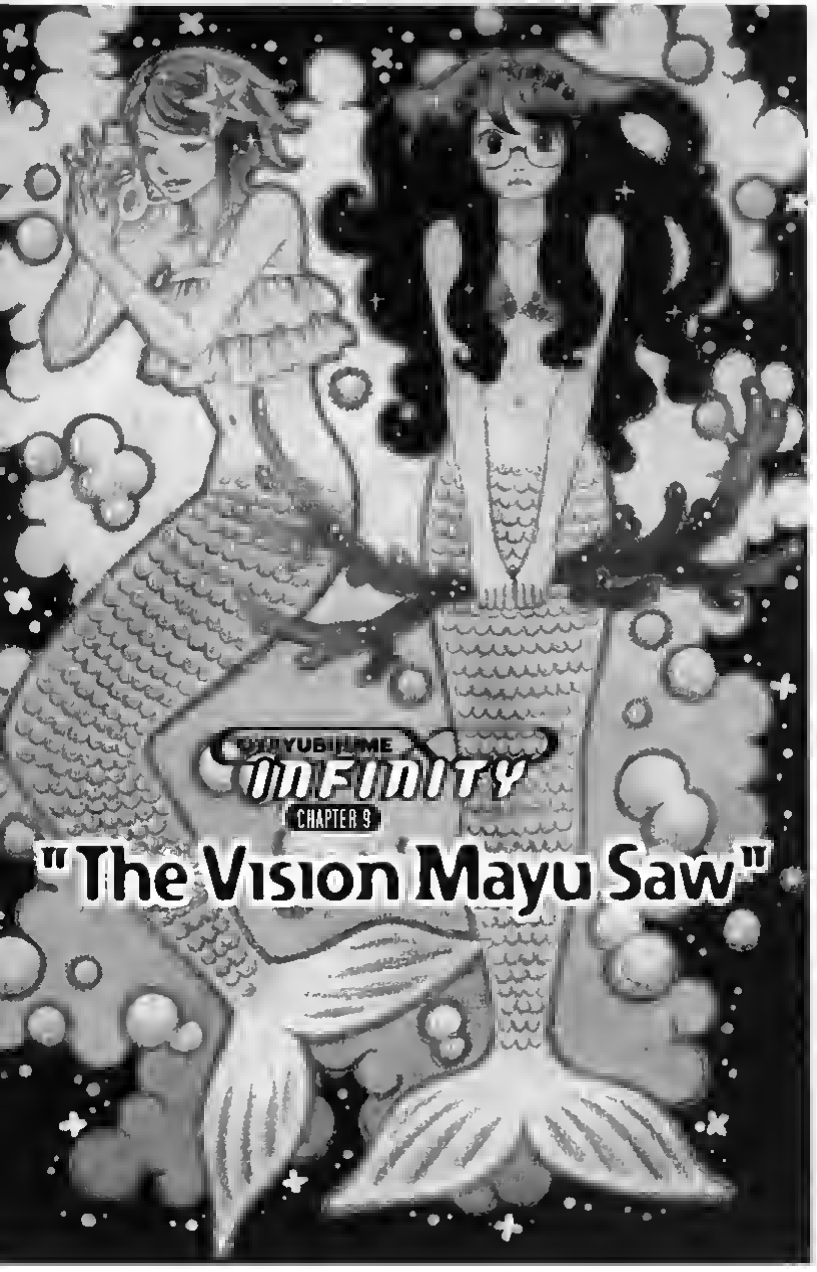
THANK YOU !!
GOOD LUCK !!
MAYA YUUKI BOOK SIGNING
CHATTER
CHATTER

HELLO!
ALL RIGHT, WHO'S NEXT?
sigh

WHA--?!
MIKE-- AND KANOKO ?!


VROOM

OH NO.
"HE MENTIONED MY BIRTHMARK"
IT'S ...
A BUTTERFLY MARK "
--LIKE HE KNEW ABOUT IT BEFOREHAND?"


YUBIYUBIDUME
INFINITY
CHAPTER 9
"The Vision Mayu Saw"

FATE!!
CHAPTER 7 (END)

Character Guide 6

Chigusa Kazami

Birthday. 11/21

Blood Type: A

super unique

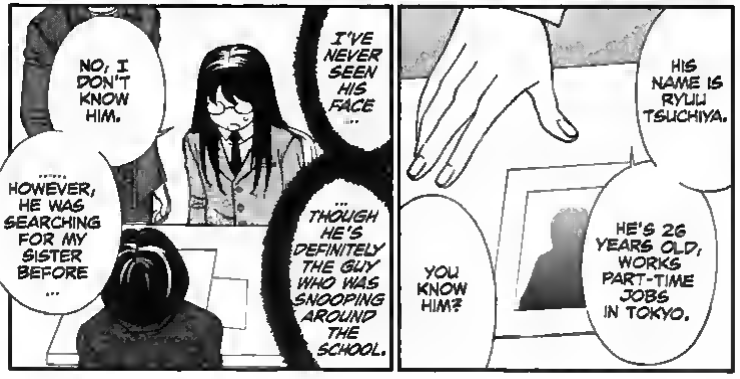
A freshman, he also seems to be the only one who actually gets anything done in the creative writing club. Though he seems like he has the most common sense at the moment, he's destined to become the most...unique person in the future. Of course, he doesn't know this yet. This kind of character appears often in my manga; this time, I'm going to make something of him...

YES!!
AGEMAK--!!
WE MADE A PACT --
IN OUR PREVIOUS LIFE--
--A PACT TO MEET AGAIN--
MAYA-- YOU ARE MY DESTINED LOVE--

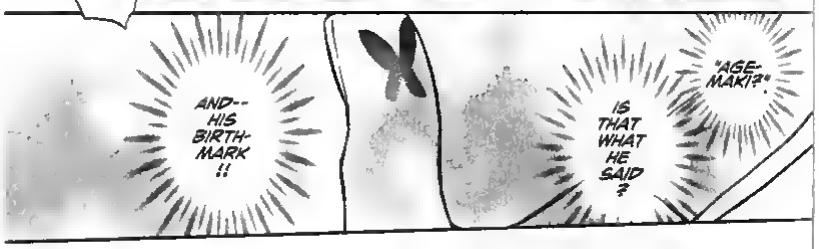
OH-- KANOKO !!
SUDDENLY MAYA'S ...
MR. KATAGIRI !! WHAT HAPPENED ?!
MY APOLOGIES, EVERYONE, WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO TAKE A LITTLE BREAK--
GRR
MAYA-CHAN !!
MAYA-CHAN FAINTED ?!
HE
WHAT'S GOING ON!!
AGEMAK!!
AH!
KILL 'IM !!
NO-- -- HEY --
YOU GRABBED MAYA'S ARM, DIDN'T YOU?
IT'S THIS GUY!! THIS GUY DID SOMETHING--
WHO YOU LITTLE--!!
... W-WAIT --
YOU WANNA FIGHT WITH ME, HUH ?

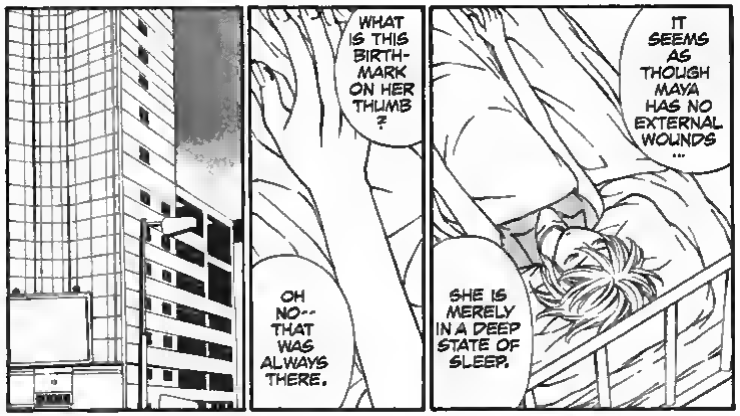
I'M TELLIN' YOU, ME AND HER WERE LOVERS, IN THE PAST LIFE.
WE MADE A PROMISE, SEE, THAT WE'D BE TOGETHER AGAIN IN A FUTURE LIFE...
THIS BIRTHMARK IS A SIGN OF THAT PROMISE!!

PLEASE-- JUST LET ME TALK TO HER--
IF WE COULD JUST MEET ONE MORE TIME, I'D BE ABLE TO PROVE EVERY-THING ...


I'VE NEVER SEEN HIS FACE ...
NO, I DON'T KNOW HIM.
..... HOWEVER, HE WAS SEARCHING FOR MY SISTER BEFORE ...
... THOUGH HE'S DEFINITELY THE GUY WHO WAS SNOOPING AROUND THE SCHOOL.
HIS NAME IS RYUJI TSUCHIYA.
YOU KNOW HIM?
HE'S 26 YEARS OLD, WORKS PART-TIME JOBS IN TOKYO.

HEY YOU !! GET OVER HERE !!
MAYA-CHAN !!
YOU REMEMBER ME, DON'T YOU ?!
MAYA-CHAN !!


AND-- HIS BIRTH-MARK !!
IS THAT WHAT HE SAID ?
"ASE-MAKI?"


IT SEEMS AS THOUGH MAYA HAS NO EXTERNAL WOUNDS ...
SHE IS MERELY IN A DEEP STATE OF SLEEP.
WHAT IS THIS BIRTH-MARK ON HER THUMB ?
OH NO-- THAT WAS ALWAYS THERE.

Still waiting outside.
Hey there, guy--- what did you do?
YOU THINK... MAYBE HE HAS MEMORIES OF THE PAST LIFE, TOO?
I JUST DON'T GET IT, THOUGH. WHAT IS THE MEANING BEHIND ALL OF THIS?
I knew it.
YET... THAT... BIRTH-MARK.
AND HE DEFI-NITELY SAID "AGE-MAKI."
SO HE'S JUST A CRAZED FAN, IS WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?
YES.
WE MUST CONDUCT A PSYCHI-ATRIC EVALU-ATION.
HE BABBLES ON ABOUT THE "PREVIOUS LIFE"--
IT SEEMS AS THOUGH THIS YOUNG MAN DREAMED UP SOME CRAZY DELUSION AND HAS BECOME DETACHED FROM REALITY.
DID YOU TALK TO THAT MAN?
I DIDN'T TELL HIM EVERYTHING. I JUST KEPT SAYING I DIDN'T KNOW THE GUY.
IF ANYTHING HAPPENS, DO NOT HESITATE TO CALL THIS NUMBER.
WE MUST ALSO ISSUE HIM A CLEAR WARNING TO CEASE ALL CONTACT WITH MAYA.

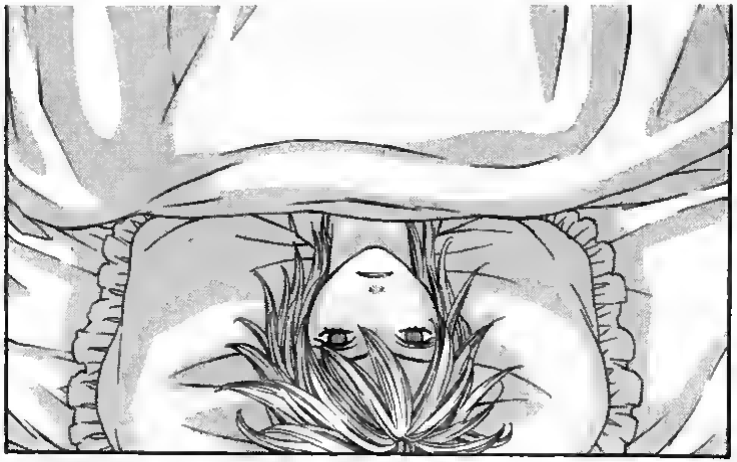
EVEN IF THAT GUY KNEW ABOUT MAYU'S BIRTHMARK...
...HE SHOULDN'T HAVE KNOWN ABOUT THE PAST LIFE--
I MEAN...
RIGHT?
EVEN AFTER WE TOOK HER HOME...
MAYA STAYED ASLEEP LIKE THAT.
BY MORNING...
...A CELEBRITY NEWS SHOW ON TV WAS TALKING ABOUT HOW MAYA'S BOOK-SIGNING GOT CUT SHORT.
KANOKO.
GO ON AND HEAD TO SCHOOL.

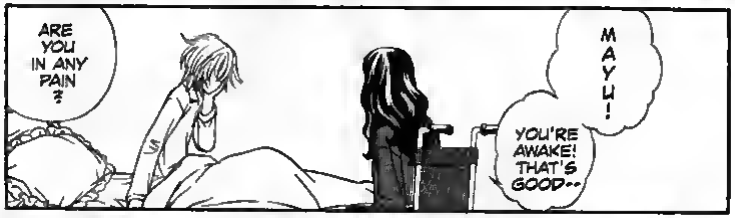
GWUH
OH MY GOD KANOKO'S BIG SISTER IS MAYA Y---
SHHHHHHHH
SHHHHHHHH
.....YEAH.
I'M PSY-CHIC !! E.S.P. !!
Heh Heh
WHEN YOU TOLD ME, I WAS SURPRISED, TOO, BOSS.
.... my throat..
COUGH! COUGH!
SO-- WHAT HAPPENED AT THE BOOK-SIGNING, HMM?
SKRUNCH
OH-- THERE YOU ARE!!
AND THEN, YESTERDAY, YOU SAW THAT SITE AND GOT WORRIED ABOUT YOUR SISTER. NATURALLY.
SO THERE WAS A BOOK-SIGNING YESTER-DAY, HUH?
BOSS, THAT'S DANGEROUS!!!
THOUGH, UH, I GUESS I ALSO DID A LITTLE RECONNAISSANCE IN THE SCHOOL OFFICE ABOUT YOU AND YOUR SISTER.
HEHEEE

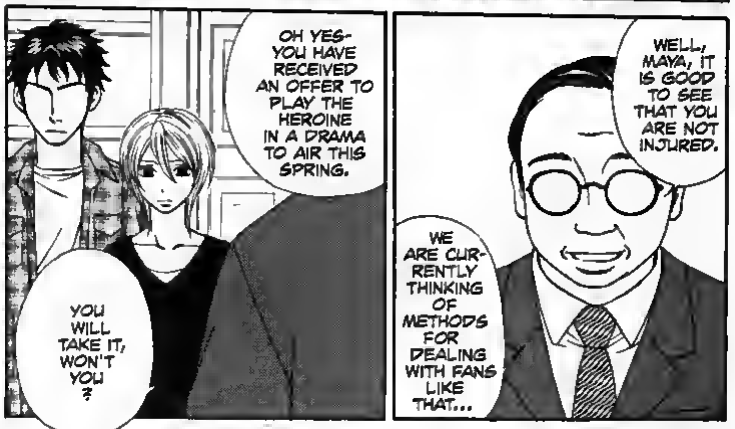
YO! KANOKO!
IT'S HARD TO PLAY THE PART OF AN HONORS STUDENT AT A TIME LIKE THIS.
WE SAW THE NEWS TODAY.
YOU WANT TO TELL US MORE ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED ?
I GUESS I CAN'T HIDE IT ANY-MORE.
.... YEAH, SURE.
JUST DON'T TELL ANYONE ELSE WHAT I'M ABOUT TO TELL YOU. GOT IT ?
HEEEEEE

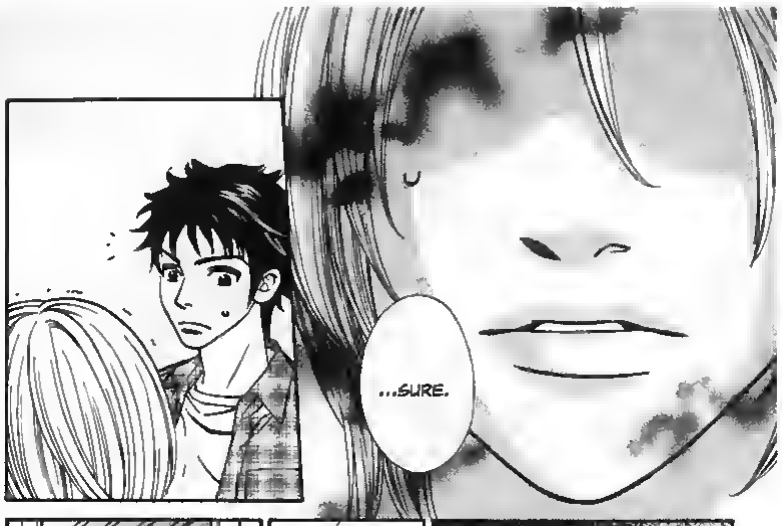
OKAY.
...
YEAH-- EVERYONE, JUST... LET'S MEET IN THE CLUB ROOM AFTER SCHOOL.
I'LL EXPLAIN EVERY-THING-AFTER SCHOOL.
AW, YOU'RE GONNA MAKE ME WAIT UNTIL AFTER SCHOOL?!
...I FELT THE STRAN-GEST PAIN IN MY HEART.
I WONDER WHY..
...JUST NOW...
Megan...
...WAS I REALLY THAT GUILTY?
THE REASON I WAS HIDING MAYU...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
ARE YOU GUYS KEEPING SECRETS FROM ME?
thump
TSU-BAME...
HEY THERE! GOOD MORNING, YOU TWO!
I see you two are getting along well, as usual!!
WHAT-EVER!!
I SAW YOU GUYS YESTER-DAY!!
MIKE-CHAN AND KANOKO-- SKIPPING CLASS AND GOING SOMEWHERE ON HIS BIKE!!
Mike won't say anything about it...
WHY ARE YOU GUYS HANGING OUT TOGETHER ALL OF A SUDDEN, HUH?
AND... WHY DIDN'T YOU GUYS TAKE ME, TOO, HUH?!
C'mon.. don't leave me out!!
NO, NO ... LOOK, LET ME EXPLAIN --




ARE YOU IN ANY PAIN?
MAYU!
YOU'RE AWAKE! THAT'S GOOD..


OH YES- YOU HAVE RECEIVED AN OFFER TO PLAY THE HEROINE IN A DRAMA TO AIR THIS SPRING.
YOU WILL TAKE IT, WON'T YOU?
WELL, MAYA, IT IS GOOD TO SEE THAT YOU ARE NOT INJURED.
WE ARE CURRENTLY THINKING OF METHODS FOR DEALING WITH FANS LIKE THAT...


...SURE.

WHAT'S WRONG, MAYA? DO YOU FEEL SICK?
MAYA YO REALLY SHOULD HOME AND GET SOME REST FOR TODAY.
HM?

...
...UM...
ANYWAY-- I SAW THE NEWS.
ARE YOU OKAY?
MY PHONE GOT, UH, BROKEN.
OH-- I'M SO SORRY.
I.....HAD A..."DREAM."
NO.
NOT A DREAM.
OF WHAT I WAS LIKE A LONG TIME AGO.
THOUGH-- NOT AS A CHILD. LONGER AGO THAN THAT.
IN AN AGE WHERE EVERYONE STILL WORE KIMONOS.
THERE WAS AN ENCLOSURE AROUND THE BUILDING WHERE I STAYED; I COULD NOT ESCAPE.

WE'LL GET YOU!!
YOU THERE!! YOU'RE NOT STALKING MAYA, TOO, ARE YOU?!
--OH!!
KANEKO-KUN..
ARE YOU TWO DATING OR SOMETHING?!
WHAT IS... HE DOING HERE?
UH...
The dude from the drama?
.....OH.
"KANEKO-KUN--" YOU MEAN...?
IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU.
WHAT HAPPENED? I WASN'T ABLE TO GET THROUGH ON YOUR PHONE...
PLEASE, KATAGIRI-SAN...
I WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK TO KANEKO-KUN ALONE FOR A MINUTE.
She's quick...

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR READING

★

Thank you very much for picking up OYAYUBIHIME INFINITY volume 2!!
It's been a whole year since I first started work on this story
It went by really fast.
There was a lot of planning stuff to get out of the way even before I could begin working.
There are a lot of ups and downs and moments of crazy panic, though in the end, I got it finished, and here it is!!

Yes, that's a hairball.

WHY DON'T YOU HEAD HOME FOR NOW, AND THEN MEET ME AT THE RESTAURANT WHERE WE ATE LAST TIME?
WELL, YOUR MANAGERS ARE HERE RIGHT NOW, SO--
.....SURE.

I MEAN, "AGEMAKI" IS TSUBAME'S "DESTINED LOVE," RIGHT?
WHY WOULD ANOTHER GUY BE AFTER HER?
WELL. I GUESS "AGEMAKI" WAS, UH ...
...SHE WAS A PROSTITUTE, RIGHT?
YEAH, REALLY, WHY?
THOUGH THERE MIGHT BE A LOT OF PEOPLE OUT THERE WITH THE SAME BIRTHMARK ...
IT'S FOR SURE THAT "AGEMAKI" DEFINITELY MEANS A LOT TO TSUBAME, RIGHT?

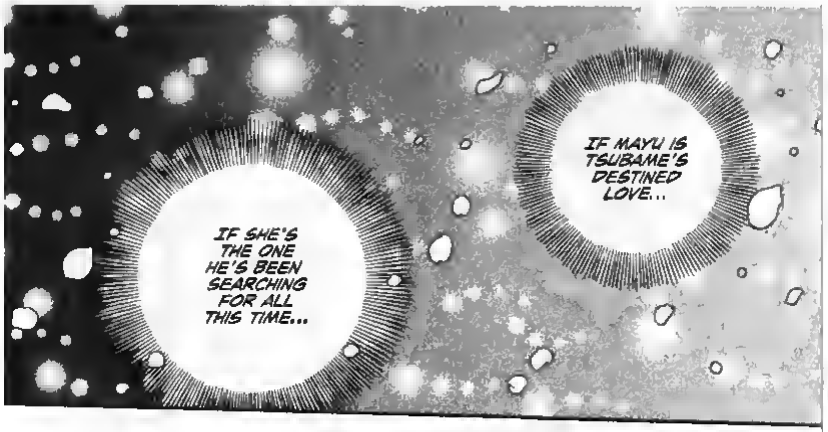
YOUR SISTER ..
...HAS A BIRTHMARK, TOO?
.....YEAH.
WHEN SHE PASSED OUT AT THE SIGNING YESTERDAY ...
...THERE WAS THIS GUY, THIS FAN, WHO WAS TALKING ABOUT MAYA BEING HIS "DESTINED LOVE."
HE HAD A BIRTHMARK, TOO.
AND HE CALLED ...
...MY SISTER ...
"AGEMAKI."
"AGEMAKI."
THAT'S ODD.

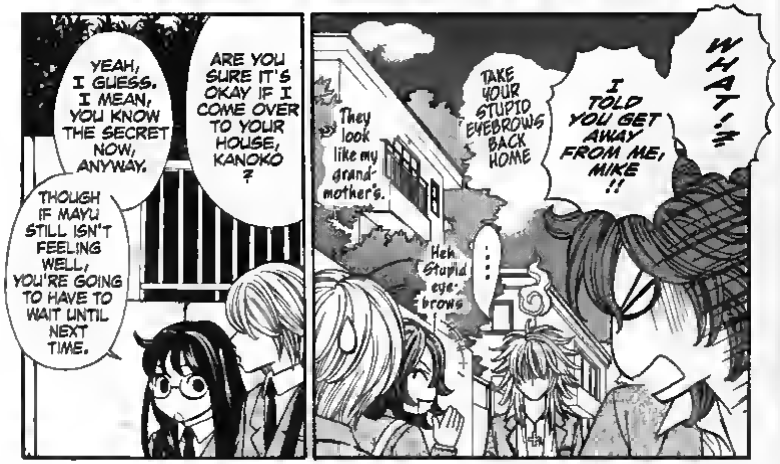
.....
WHAT THE HECK..
KIKI-SEMPAI, YOU SAID YOU WERE GONNA HELP ME FIND HER!!
B-BOSS !!
SLAP
ARE YOU SAYING YOU NEVER BELIEVED ME?
I TOLD YOU, DIDN'T I?
I BESEECHED YOU TO CEASE YOUR SEARCH.
IT'S JUST AS I HAVE ALWAYS IMAGINED.
TSUBAME.
OR ARE YOU SAYIN' THAT YOU THINK AGEMAKI AND SUKEROKU'S LOVE WAS A LIE?
HEY-- TSUBAME-- Calm down.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS !!

TSUBAME.
ARE YOU SURE "AGEMAKI" TRULY LOVED "SUKEROKU?"
THEN AGAIN WE DON'T KNOW IF THAT GUY WAS LYING OR WHAT.
EVEN IF WE CONSIDER THAT AGEMAKI HAD MADE A "PROMISE" WITH SOMEONE OTHER THAN SUKEROKU IT'S STILL KIND OF STRANGE.
LET'S NOT SKIRT THE ISSUE ANYMORE-- THAT'S WHAT SHE WAS.
SHE MUST HAVE HAD A LOT OF... REGULAR CUSTOMERS.
ALL THE WAY BACK IN THAT PAST LIFE...
!...DO YOU THINK YOU AND AGEMAKI WERE REALLY IN LOVE?

I WANT TO MEET HER!
IF I MEET HER, I WILL KNOW !!
... PLEASE !!
...
I ALWAYS KNEW THIS MIGHT HAPPEN.
AND YET...
WELL...
I GUESS THESE TWO WOULD MAKE A PERFECT COUPLE, HUH ?
MIGHT MAYU ACTUALLY BE "AGEMAKI?"

STUPID-BYEBROWS STUPID MORON !!
MIKE YOU MORON !!
MIKE-SAN ..
TAKE A LOOK AT YOUR REALITY.
.....GRR
GAH.
WELL, ACTUALLY, ABOUT THAT ...
PLEASE! YOU HAVE TO LET ME MEET MAYA!!
KANOKO-CHAN!
Couple' a kids...
KANOKO!! YOU SAID YOU FOUND YOUR DESTINED LOVE, RIGHT?!
AND YOU AND HIM ARE STILL GOING OUT, RIGHT ?!

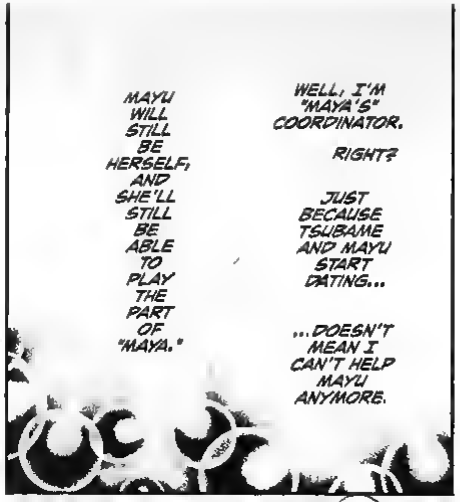



WHAT!?
I TOLD YOU GET AWAY FROM ME, MIKE!!
TAKE YOUR STUPID EYEBROWS BACK HOME
They look like my grandmother's.
Heh. Stupid eyebrows!
...
ARE YOU SURE IT'S OKAY IF I COME OVER TO YOUR HOUSE, KANOKO?
YEAH, I GUESS. I MEAN, YOU KNOW THE SECRET NOW, ANYWAY.
THOUGH IF MAYU STILL ISN'T FEELING WELL, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL NEXT TIME.

OH, MAN... I REALLY DON'T WANT HIM TO MEET HER...

...AFTER I SPENT ALL THIS TIME MAKING "MAYA" INTO WHAT SHE IS NOW.

IF MAYU AND TSUBAME START DATING... MAN, THAT'LL RUIN EVERYTHING.


WELL, I'M "MAYA'S" COORDINATOR.
RIGHT?
JUST BECAUSE TSUBAME AND MAYU START DATING...
...DOESN'T MEAN I CAN'T HELP MAYU ANYMORE.
MAYU WILL STILL BE HERSELF, AND SHE'LL STILL BE ABLE TO PLAY THE PART OF "MAYA."

YOU KNOW. YOU LOOK ALIKE.
I MEAN, YOU LOOK JUST LIKE HER.
I SAID THIS MORNING THAT I LOOKED UP YOU AND MAYU IN THE SCHOOL REGISTRY, AND THAT'S HOW I KNEW.
THOUGH, UH, ACTUALLY, I FIGURED IT OUT BEFORE THEN.

MAYBE, IF I SEE HER RIGHT NOW...

...I'LL REMEMBER SOMETHING.

SOMETHING BEST LEFT NOT REMEMBERED.

KANOKO !!
MAYU!!
DASH
IT LOOKS LIKE MAYA YUUKI TO ME.
.....HEY-- ISN'T THAT ...?
W--
WAIT!!
SHE'S GETTIN' AWAY!!
WAIT UP !!
UM, WE'D LIKE TO SPEAK WITH YOU A MOMENT ..

"AGEMAKI-!!!"
OH NO.

SO THAT'S IT.
I DON'T WANT THIS TO HAPPEN.
IF HE LOSES ALL INTEREST IN ME ...
I DON'T WANT TSUBAME TO FIND "AGEMAKI."

WHAT IS THIS FEELING?
IS IT... OH, MAN.
DOES THIS MEAN I'M IN LOVE WITH HIM?
!!
SKOOG
OH

NO.
SHE'S NOT "AGEMAKI."

STOP!!
BOOM!
DON'T TOUCH ME!!

FWUMP
HEY!!
OVER HERE!!

TSUBAME...
....
WHAT HAP-PENED?

CHAPTER NINE: END

I THOUGHT SHE MIGHT HAVE BEEN AT THAT GUY'S PLACE. KANEKO, THE ONE SHE'D BEEN TEXTING.
THOUGH I'D GONE AND THROWN THAT CELL PHONE AWAY.
THE PEOPLE IN THE TALENT AGENCY WERE LIVID.
PROBABLY BECAUSE "MAYA YUUKI" WAS THEIR BIGGEST, HOTTEST CLIENT.
CELL PHONES KEPT MAYU AND I CONNECTED...
I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW MAYU'S NEW PHONE NUMBER OR MAIL ADDRESS.
WHY DID SHE RUN AWAY LIKE THAT?
THEY WERE OUR CONNECTION.
MAYA'S DISAP-PEARED?

WE'RE JUST GOING TO HAVE TO REVISE OUR SCHEDULE FOR THE TIME BEING.
YES, YES.
OH MY GOSH!
WE ARE SEARCHING TO THE BEST OF OUR ABILITY.
SHE'LL TURN UP SOON.

Character Guide.

Kameko Yomoyama

Birthday: 3/3

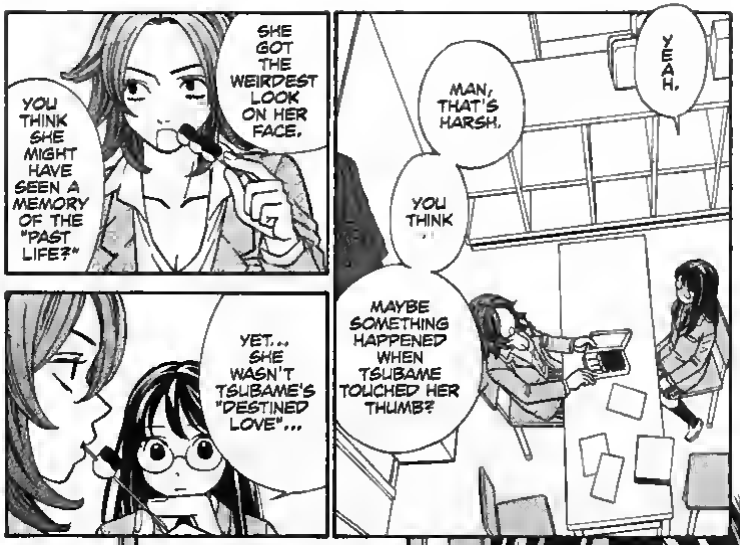
Blood Type. AB

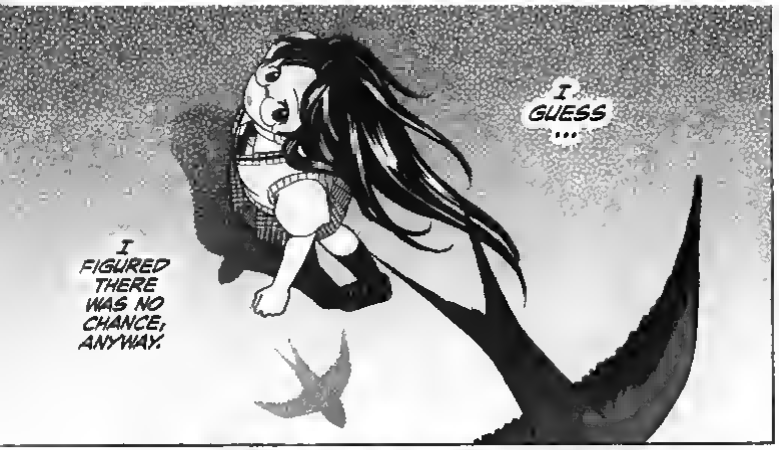
I first drew her without any kind of preconception other than that she was going to be a diligent member of the creative writing club What resulted was quite wonderful Might she be a dark horse candidate for a starring role in future stories?

HE'S ALL DEPRESSED AGAIN.
PREDIC-TABLE GUY.

MAN, I REALLY DO LIKE HIM.

THAT MOMENT--
WHEN I KNEW MAYU WASN'T TSUBAME'S DESTINED LOVE.
I WAS KIND OF GLAD.
MAN, I'M MEAN.


SHE GOT THE WEIRDEST LOOK ON HER FACE.
YOU THINK SHE MIGHT HAVE SEEN A MEMORY OF THE "PAST LIFE?"
YEAH.
MAN, THAT'S HARSH.
YOU THINK
MAYBE SOMETHING HAPPENED WHEN TSUBAME TOUCHED HER THUMB?
YET... SHE WASN'T TSUBAME'S "DESTINED LOVE"...


I GUESS ...
I FIGURED THERE WAS NO CHANCE, ANYWAY.

MAN ...
IT TOOK ME LONG ENOUGH TO REALIZE ALL THIS.

AND NOW ...
HE DOESN'T EVEN LOOK AT ME ANYMORE.

I FINALLY UNDERSTAND.
IT WAS NAGGING ME ALL ALONG.
"TSUBAME YOSHIZAWA."
EVER SINCE I SAW HIM AT THE SCHOOL ENTRANCE CEREMONY ...
AND THEN, WHEN HE CAME UP AND TALKED TO ME...
I WAS REALLY HAPPY.
...ABOUT TSUBAME.
I WAS ALWAYS TEXTING MAYU ..
YET, THOSE FEELINGS ...
I JUST KEPT DENYING THEM.

THE CITY WAS GORGEOUS AND LIVELY.
IT WAS FULL OF LOVELY THINGS.
THE CITY WAS LIKE A DREAM.
SCARY MEN WERE EMPLOYED TO KEEP WATCH.
FAILURE TO OBEY COMMANDS MEANT STRICT PUNISH-MENT.
..... THIS AGAIN, HUH?
I WAS IN SOME PLACE CALLED "YOSHI-WARA."
I WAS SOLD THERE BY MY POOR FAMILY ...

WELL, I'M GOING TO HEAD OUT TO WORK NOW.
I'LL LEAVE THE KEY HERE-- COME AND GO AS YOU WISH.
DO YOU... BELIEVE WHAT I TOLD YOU?
YOU CAN CALL ME "SHUN."
... KANE-KO-KUN?
ABOUT MY PAST LIFE?

WELL...
WHY DON'T YOU JUST RELAX UNTIL I GET BACK?
SHE WAS A BAD PERSON, HUH?
HMM.
I GET IT.

CLUNK-CLICK

---!!
KANOKO?! WHAT'S WRONG?
CHATTER
CHATTER

THERE WAS NO ESCAPE.
IT WAS SURROUNDED BY A HIGH FENCE AND WATER CHANNELS.
I HATED THAT PLACE.

I LOOKED UP TO HER.
YET IT WAS THERE THAT I MET A STRONG BEAUTIFUL PERSON...

SHE...
BETRAYED...
AND...

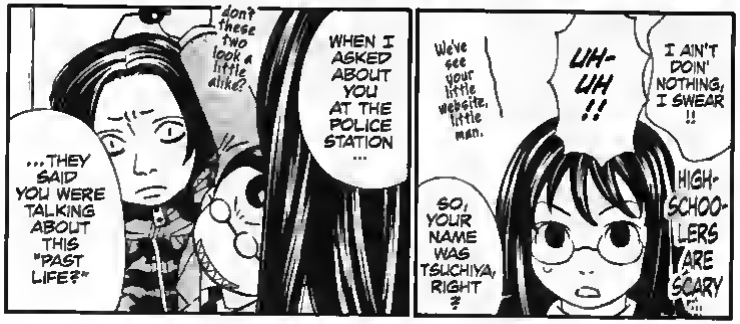
THEY KEPT SAYING THEY WANTED TO SHOW ME TO A PSYCHIATRIST ...
YES!! WILL YOU LISTEN?!
THEY WERE HORRIBLE; THEY TREATED ME LIKE A CRAZY PERSON!!

NO, NO-- THEY CAN'T TEAR ME AWAY FROM MAYA FOR LONG...
I JUST... I JUST WANTED TO...

AND I KNEW IMMEDIATELY- SHE WAS MY DESTINED LOVE, THE ONE I'D SEEN IN A DREAM.
I FIRST SAW HER IN THAT MOVIE...
SHE WAS AS BEAUTIFUL IN THE PAST WORLD...
AND BEYOND THAT--SHE LEFT A SIGN OF OUR PROMISE ON HER HAND.

I AGREE!!
LET'S GRAB 'IM!!
IT'S THAT CREEPY GUY FROM THE BOOK SIGNING !!
RUSTLE RUSTLE

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WAS STALKING MAYA, CORRECT ?!
YOU WANT US TO TAKE YOU BACK TO THE POLICE ?!
GR RR R
WE SHOULD BE ASKING YOU THAT!!
GRRRR
FR OO M!
EE-YOW... WHAT'S WITH YOU PEOPLE ?
don't pinch me


...THEY SAID YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT THIS "PAST LIFE?"
don't these two look a little alike?
WHEN I ASKED ABOUT YOU AT THE POLICE STATION ...
We've seen your little website, little man.
SO, YOUR NAME WAS TSUCHIYA, RIGHT ?
UH-UH !!
I AIN'T DOIN' NOTHING, I SWEAR !!
HIGH-SCHOOLERS ARE SCARY ...

WHEN I HELD HANDS WITH HER--I CONFIRMED IT. I KNEW IT!!
SHE MUST KNOW IT AS WELL!!
SHE MUST SEE THE FATE THAT BINDS US TOGETHER.
YES, YES. HER NAME WAS AGEMAKI.
THUMP
AND MY NAME WAS DENKICHI.
HEY, TSU-BAME ..
AGEMAKI IS NOT YOUR DESTINED LOVE!!
HEARD THAT NAME BEFORE ...
I FEEL LIKE I'VE ...
..HUH?
IT'S IMPOS-SIBLE !!
SLAM

NOT YOU !!
I AM AGEMAKI'S DESTINED LOVE !!
LOOK!
YOU... BIRTH-MARK?
..HUH?
.....UH ...
I AM THE ONE WHO LOVED HER TRULY BECAUSE I DIED WITH HER.
SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU.
YOU WERE JUST ONE OF HER MANY "CUSTOMERS."

I THOUGHT THE ONLY ONES WHO KNEW ANYTHING ...
...ABOUT MAYA AND KANEKO-KUN WERE ME AND HER MANAGER KATAGIRI...
RUMORS SURE TRAVEL FAST...
MIKE-- PLEASE, CAN YOU HELP ME?
UM..
THEY HAVEN'T FOUND MAYU YET.
If I remember something about the past life, maybe... maybe I'll find a clue that will help me search for Mayu.

ANYWAY..
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD THE RUMOR?
There, There
NOW, NOW ... CALM DOWN.
GRR RRR RR R
THEY SAY MAYA IS GOING OUT WITH SHUNJI KANEKO OF "SPLASH."
NO! IT WAS I WHO LOVED HER TRULY!! I DIED WITH HER!!
IT'S CAUSING A STIR ON THE INTERNET.
WHAT?!
She cannot escape destiny, after all.
I WISH SHE'D QUIT TEASING ME.

PLEASE UNDER-STAND
CLICK
...THIS IS FOR MY OWN
...KI
...
YOU YET HAVE ...
...MUCH TO TELL ME...
REST WELL ...
CLICK
CLICK
12:28
"MOBILE BBS"
[NO.117991]
・・・"INFORMATION" MAYA SUGIHI IS STAYING AT SHUN.JI SANEKO'S APARTMENT. I KNOW HER GOING IN.
CLICK

ALL RIGHT.
I'll go to your apartment, Mike.
Tomorrow, then After school
G o o d.
A...
... GE ... MA ...

HAHAHAH
STAMP
STAMP
STAMP
OH, MAN ...
THOSE FOOLS ...
GAHH...

HE WANTS YOU TO HELP HIM WITH SOME-THING.
MR. NISHI SAYS TO MEET WITH HIM IN THE TEACHERS' LOUNGE.
HEY HIME-MIYA SAN ...
WHEW. IS IT FINALLY OVER?
MR. NISHI?
CLICK
LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH...
...O... KAY..
RIGHT NOW?

I THINK SHE WAS, UH, LYING TO YOU?
UH...
THEN WHY DID SHE SAY SHE HAD A BOY-FRIEND?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? SHE DIDN'T FIND NO "DESTINED LOVE."
She's smart!!
MAN, HOW DID KANOKO FIND HER DESTINED LOVE SO EASILY?

YOU COME TO A GIRL SAYING "I THINK I LOVED YOU IN THE PAST LIFE WILL YOU BE MY GIRLFRIEND" AND EXPECT HER TO BUY IT?
DON'T YOU GET IT?
REALLY? WHY WOULD SHE DO THAT...?
That guy was just her sister's manager
OH, COME ON, IT WAS A PRETTY SHABBY LIE.

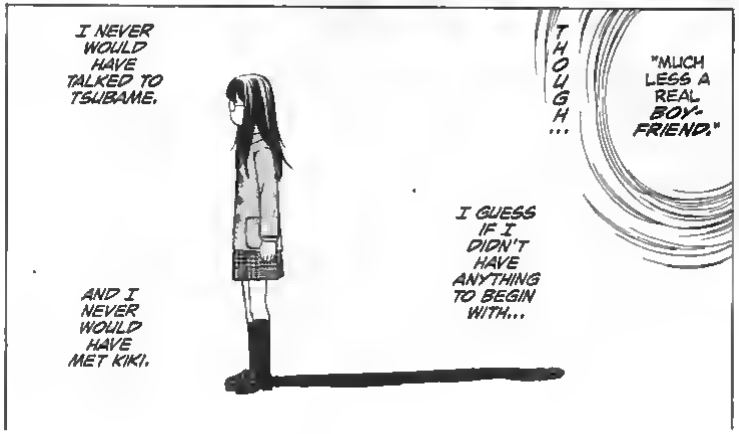
KANOKO'S A BIT DIFFERENT.
I MEAN... YOU KNOW THOSE GIRLS WHO HANG OUT WITH YOU BECAUSE THEY THINK YOU'RE CUTE?

IT SEEMS LIKE THE BIRTHMARK ON HIS THUMB IS THE REAL THING, THOUGH.
THE NERVE OF THAT TSUCHIYA GUY!!
DID YOU HEAR WHAT HE SAID TO ME!?

THOUGH IF WHAT HE SAYS IS TRUE, WE HAVE A CONSISTENCY PROBLEM IN OUR STORY.
...AND EVEN THAT SHE WAS IN LOVE WITH SOME-ONE.
AND HE KNEW THE NAME "AGE-MAKI"
They say these things are sour...

"AGE-MAKI" HAS GOT TO BE SOME-ONE ELSE.
NO MATTER WHAT, I JUST CAN'T FIND HER...
THAT TSUCHIYA GUY'S JUST NUTS!!
AND EVEN SO!! MAYA WAS NOT AGEMAKI !!
Yeah, that's sour...
I don't get this any-more...
I SIGHHHHHHHH...
THAT "AGEMAKI" WAS A REAL TEASE, WASN'T SHE?
HEY! DON'T TALK ABOUT MY AGEMAKI THAT WAY !!

"YOU'RE TOO HARD ON YOUR-SELF."
"DON'T BETRAY YOUR OWN FEELINGS, MAN."
"YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO MAKE ANY REAL FRIENDS THAT WAY."
ALL I WANTED TO DO WAS AVOID ATTENTION.
STAY AWAY FROM ANNOYANCES.
DRIFT APART FROM THE CROWD.
...I BECAME THE MOST POPULAR GIRL IN SCHOOL.
ALL THE OTHER GIRLS HATE ME.
I MAKE SOME WEIRDO FRIENDS.
YET...
BECAUSE OF THIS LITTLE BIRTH-MARK


I NEVER WOULD HAVE TALKED TO TSUBAME.
AND I NEVER WOULD HAVE MET KIKI.
I GUESS IF I DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO BEGIN WITH...
THOUGH...
"MUCH LESS A REAL BOY-FRIEND."

I MEAN, DO YOU EVER THINK ABOUT "RIGHT NOW?"
SHRINK
THEY'VE GOT ME TRAPPED.
MAN, THIS IS THE SECOND FLOOR.
THIS IS RIDICU-LOUS.
WHY'D THEY DO THIS?
I'M LATE NOW AS IT IS.

I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE RIGHT NOW !!
HUH?
JUST WAIT A SEC!!
MIKE!!
I GUESS THIS IS THE END OF MY LITTLE GOODY-TWO-SHOES ACT.
IT'S TIME TO BE BAD.
I'D RATHER BE BAD...
I GUESS

WHAT...
...IS MAYA" TO ME?
REALLY?
IF "MAYA" BECAME A STAR...
WAS THAT ALL I REALLY WANTED?
THIS IS SO STUPID ...
THIS IS IDIOTIC.
I DON'T WANNA DO THIS ...
ALL RIGHT, ENOUGH ...

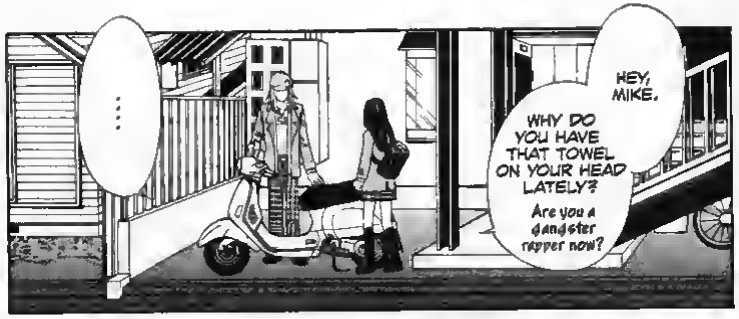
WHOOSH

YOU ONLY LIVE ONCE, AFTER ALL.

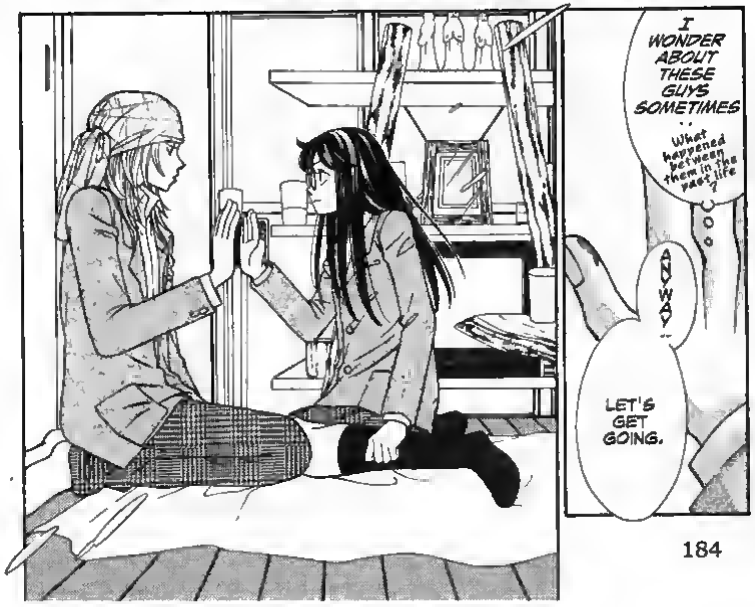
GO TO HELL !!
YEAH.
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.
LA-LA-LA
♪
....

I have landed !!
MAN, I TOTALLY THOUGHT THIS BUSH WOULD SOFTEN MY LANDING.
DUDE MY KNEES HURT.
...Butterfly?
...YOWCH.
SIGH
.....
CRUNCH!!

SWOOSH
AGAIN
I FEEL IT.
SOON, I WILL SEE IT.
AND THIS ...
IS ALL WE HAD TO DO.


...
HEY, MIKE.
WHY DO YOU HAVE THAT TOWEL ON YOUR HEAD LATELY?
Are you a gangster rapper now?

...
IS IT BECAUSE TSUBAME MADE FUN OF YOUR EYEBROWS?
Stupid eyebrows!!


I WONDER ABOUT THESE GUYS SOMETIMES ..
What happened between them in the past, like?
ANYWAY ...
LET'S GET GOING.

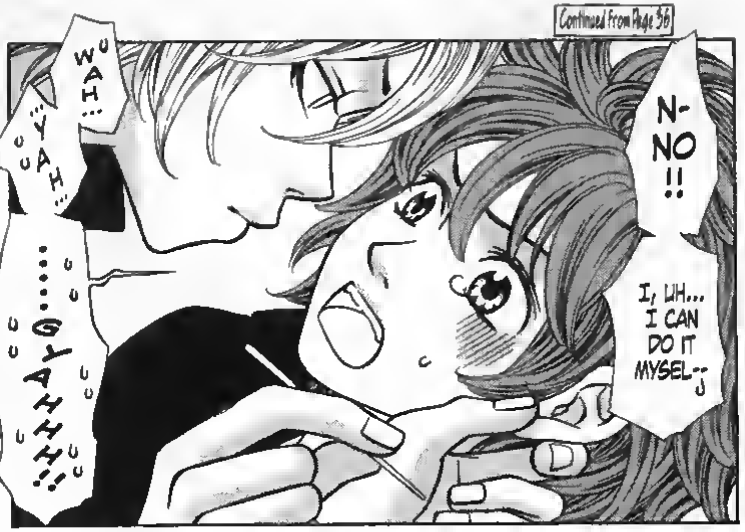
IT'S TOO DARK. I CAN'T SEE
WHO IS THIS...
ARE YOU NOT IN LOVE WITH ME?
IS THAT... ME?
THIS TATTOO...
...SEALS THE OATH.
...
IN THE FUTURE LIFE WE WILL BE WED
JUST AS YOU PROMISED...
JUST AS WE PROMISED...

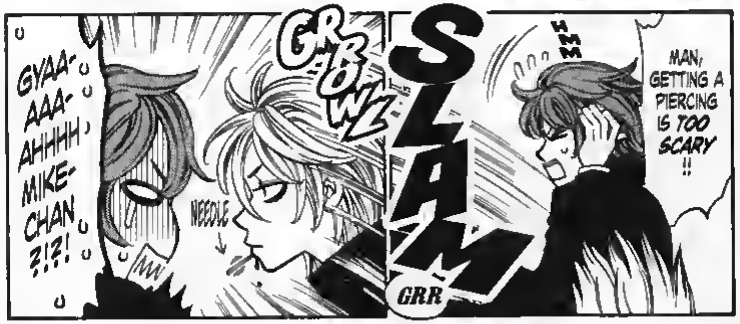
THIS IS THE PAST LIFE.
THE SKY IS RED.
IT'S NO GOOD!
YOU CAN'T RUN ANY FURTHER!!
THIS IS THE END!!
CRUNSH
CRUNSH
CRUNSH
WHAT...?
WAHH
GYAH

JUST LIKE WHEN SHE WAS "AGEMAKI."
SHE BETRAYS ME, AS SHE DID IN THE PAST.
IT'S ALL KANOKO'S FAULT.
SO...
AH...I...
I AM AGEMAKI ?!

DO YOU AGREE ...?
...AGEMAKI
DENKICHI-

Continued from Page 56

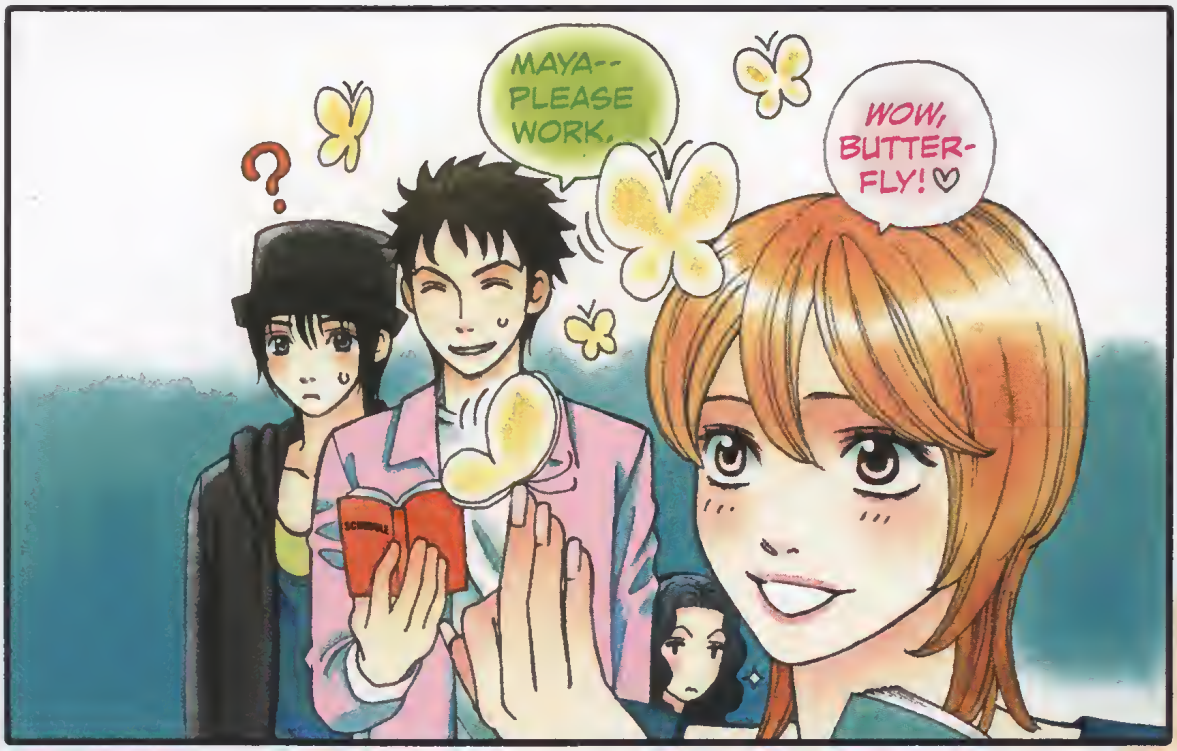




And he never got a piercing to this day!!
Mike, you really scared me that day
It's a good thing you didn't cut the inside of your mouth!!
AND THAT IS HOW MIKE ENDED UP WITH A PIERCED LIP.
Readers, please get a professional to do your piercings, okay?!

FIN.

CHAPTER 10 END



Poor Kanoko. What has she gotten herself into? She refused to believe that she's Tsubame's destined lover from the past, so now she's determined to help him find out who really is. But the butterfly-shaped birthmark that's supposed to connect them has a way of turning up on the most unlikely people!

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